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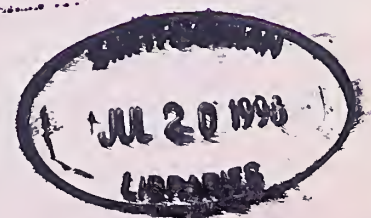
African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

January • February 1998

Volume 51

Number 1



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Bob Green, 997 Botany Ln., Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Sacramento, CA - April 19-27, 1998, Houston, TX - April 3-12, 1999.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$6.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGES DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1994 Handbook - \$10.25 (postpaid)

Note: We have reprinted the Judges Handbook. If you ordered a handbook prior to November 1994 and would like to update your book with all the changes that have appeared in the AVM thru Jan. '95, please order 1993 Updated pages. Cost is \$4.25.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

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AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net or editor@avsa.org

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL NUMBER 6 - All remaining stock will be sold at \$6.50 each postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder.

MVL NUMBER 7 - Now available for \$15.00 each. Describes all varieties to Dec. 31, 1996.

MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - \$8.95 each.

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 3771 Copper Penny Lane, Auburn, CA 95603.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - \$25.00. Updates (when available) - \$25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$25.00. Updates \$7.50.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members, only. Members renewing, receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Email 06JLSmith@BSU.edu

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January • February

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COVER

Bottom: **Petite Jewel**
Best Miniature,
1997 AVSA National Show
Exhibited by: **Phyllis King**
Hybridizer: H. Pittman

Top L - R:
Little Pro
2nd Best in Show
From AVSA Best Mini/Semi
Collection, 1997 National Show
Exhibited By: **Kathy Lahti**
Hybridizer: H. Pittman

Bogey Man
3rd Best In Show
From AVSA Best Semi/Mini
Collection, 1997 National Show
Exhibitor: **Kathy Lahti**
Hybridizer: R. Scott
Photo Credit: Gus Francisco



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OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: pandjw@erols.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rrumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: jrcarter@worldnet.att.net

Jane Rexilius, Publications
5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: Janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoqjl@aol.com

Happy New Year

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



President's Message

Dear AVSA Members:

I hope that each of you had a joyful holiday season and are ready for the new year. As so many of us are experiencing the cold winter months, our African violets can be a great source of enjoyment and can serve as a daily reminder that spring is coming.

The Executive Committee of AVSA met at the Lone Star African Violet Council convention in Houston in November. We also visited the AVSA Office in Beaumont and toured Becker Printing where our African Violet Magazine is published. This was a good opportunity for us to meet with the office staff and those who are directly involved in the preparation of this publication. Several topics were discussed in our meetings that weekend. The most significant decision was the approval of a proposal from the Technology Committee for software for the computer system at the AVSA Office. The new membership software was installed in early December and the staff is busy learning how to use the system efficiently. We are confident that it will be a great time-saver in the processing of your membership renewals, orders for items sold through the AVSA Office, and convention registrations.

The Executive Committee also spent a great deal of time discussing ideas and suggestions for the AVSA Website on the Internet. Several recommendations from the Internet Committee were approved. The Internet Committee is now working on a whole new, expanded website. We hope to have it online early this year. A possible new feature to be included is the ability to order AVSA materials on-line. The new website will also feature much more information about AVSA and about growing African violets.

Following a successful site visit in late November by our Convention Director, Ann Miller, the Executive Committee approved her recommendation to accept an invitation from the Missouri Valley African Violet Council to host the 2000 AVSA Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. AVSA has never had a convention in Omaha, so we are excited about going to a new city. Omaha has some outstanding sites for tours and is easily accessible by air or by car. As a charter member of Missouri Valley AVC, I can assure you that MVAVC always puts on a spectacular show.

This issue of the African Violet Magazine includes all the information you need to start making your plans to attend this year's convention in Sacramento, California. Convention Chairman Barbara Elkin has promised beautiful weather in April. Turn to the purple pages in the center of the magazine for all of the details about the show, the tours, the presentations, the banquets, and all of the other convention activities. Get your registration form in early and start watching for those bargain air fares. If by chance you have a convention question that is not answered here, just call the AVSA Office or send us an e-mail and we will try to get the information you need as soon as possible.

Your AVSA Office staff is eager to assist you at any time. While Cindy Chatelain, former Office Manager, is no longer employed by AVSA, staff members Jenny Daugereau and Tammi Gotcher are ready and willing to answer your calls and mail promptly and efficiently.

As we begin a new year, I would like to suggest two new year's resolutions: first, that each member of AVSA try to get a new member during 1998, and secondly, that each of us try to grow at least one plant that could be considered for a Best in Show award at our 1998 shows.

Happy New Year!

Esther Edwards Wells

Esther Edwards Wells, AVSA President

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • *email* rrumsey@earthlink.net

Happy New year!

In this issue you'll find the Purple Convention Pages filled with the information you'll need to plan your trip to the AVSA 52nd National Convention in Sacramento, California.

The Radisson Hotel Sacramento is a luxurious resort hotel, complete with a private lake and acres of landscaped grounds, yet it's only five minutes from the state capitol. Be sure to register early for the convention, taking advantage of the Early Bird Discount.

Bill Paauwe has again done a great job compiling our Annual Index for 1997 (page 61-64). This index will enable you to look up the articles published in the previous year by author and subject, as well as all the color photographs. Often our members call requesting information from previous issues and I've found these indexes to be a valuable tool in helping them.

One of our Commercial Members, **Linda's Heavenly Accents**, was inadvertently excluded from the listing of Commercial Members in the September/October AVM. Linda is trying to collect all of the Fredette varieties. You may contact her at the following address:

Linda's Heavenly Accents
PO Box 690
Cordova, NC 28330

We have two Showcase sections in this issue, so be sure to have a look at some of the amazing plants our members have grown. I want to encourage members to send color slides or transparencies of their show winning entries. Please make sure that no name card is nestled in the foliage, and that they are not set against a "busy"

backdrop that would detract from the plant.

Also, please consider writing an article to share some of your experiences with violets. In this issue, **K.C. Arceneaux** gives us an interesting look at her experiences with, "A Report on Growing African Violets From Commercial Seed", (pg. 46). Well-known grower, **Rita Hilton**, shares her award-winning methods on page 32, in the presentation she gave at the Atlanta convention, "Growing For the Gold".

First-time submitter, **Hank Rinick**, of Florida, tells of his adventures in the world of African violets as he followed his wife into the hobby with, "Let Me Tell You About My Wife" (page 23).

The awards set aside for the Sacramento Convention are listed on pages 41 and 42 of this issue. Awards Chairman, **Linda Golubski**, tells me that there is still time to donate an award. The deadline for having them listed in the Convention Souvenir Book is February 15, 1998.

It was a privilege to attend the Lone Star AVC State Convention in Houston in November. The hosting Affiliate Clubs; **AV Study Club of Houston**, **NASA Area AVS**, **Office Violets and Lunch** and the **Spring Branch AVC** made it a memorable experience. There were so many entries in the show, I have no idea how the judges narrowed down their choices! I had never seen a "mirror image" arrangement, and have to admit that I just had to poke my finger through the hollow frame because it looked so real. (Unfortunately, this act did not go unnoticed and I may be hearing about it for a while.)

Thank you for all the positive comments about the AVM. I want very much to produce a publication that all of our members will enjoy. Please send me any suggestions or ideas you have for improving this magazine.

THANKS TO THE TRISTATE AV COUNCIL

The Tristate AV Council (NJ, NY, PA) has donated funds for a memorial plaque honoring Lezita Hamilton, to be displayed in the AVSA Office. Thank you for honoring this longtime member who was instrumental in the founding of a permanent home for AVSA.

THANKS TO THE AVSA MEMBERS FROM COLORADO

who contributed for the memorial plaque
to be displayed in the AVSA office
honoring longtime AVSA member,
Nell-Sue Tyson.



by John Carter
AVSA Technology Committee

AVSA and Today's Technologies

The AVSA Board of Directors approved the purchase of a new computer program to be used in maintaining the society's membership records. The program was installed and membership data converted the first week of December. The staff received training in the use of the system and it is now being used to record membership renewals and the addition of new members.

The old system only permitted the storing of the basic name and address information. There was no ability to store phone numbers or other information about a member. You will have the opportunity to provide your phone number on your membership renewal this next year and if you have an email address you may also provide it. This will give the staff more information to serve you.

What will the new program mean to you, the membership? You will see a new format for the membership renewal notice. If you are associated with an affiliate or serve on an AVSA committee you will not see different membership numbers appear associated with your different positions. This will simplify the record keeping required by the staff. The office will also be able to save on postage by using the new software to verify your address and print your address according to postal regulations to get lower rates for mailing the membership renewal notices and magazines.

You can save AVSA money by notifying the office of a

change in your address and by paying your dues before we have to send a second notice. It costs AVSA \$.50 if your magazine is forwarded. Our new program will verify your address against the post office records so it will be important for you to notify them of your address change also.

Computers are part of our lives. We could not make a phone call, write a check or use a credit card without them. We are trying to use them in the AVSA office to make the staff more efficient in providing services to the membership. You can be assured that any information you provide to AVSA will not be used for any other purpose. Currently the Internet Committee is looking at improving the AVSA web site to make it of better service to the membership and a tool to recruit new members. Many of our commercial members are providing outstanding web sites which also further the cause of AVSA.

The board made a significant financial commitment to upgrade the hardware and software used in the office. There will be an ongoing expense of maintenance on the equipment and software to avoid the situation where we will have a major expense like this again. I want to thank those who have made contributions and encourage you to make a contribution if you have not. We are making it easy for you to include a contribution with your membership renewal so you can just write one check. If each member just pays a couple of dollars extra we can cover the expenses and be prepared for the unexpected expenses.

Some Potting Tips the Books Don't Mention

If you do not have the luxury of a POTTING ROOM, maybe the hints below will be of assistance:

1. Make sure you have more than enough potting mix, pots and wicks to do the job. There is nothing more annoying than finding out you have 10 plants to repot but only enough potting mix for 3 plants.
2. Do not wash kitchen floor before attempting this task. It only doubles the work load.
3. Make sure your labels and pens are water proof.
4. Use silver or bright utensils. I have managed to dispose of at least one black handled cutlery set over the years.
5. Dispose of husband/wife, children and animals. You don't want them to see what you do with the scissors, best knives etc. They will only want to make a sandwich or a cup of coffee if they are not locked outside.
6. Take the phone off the hook or put answering machine on, vermiculite sticks like glue to the hand piece. Shut front door, it is not the best time to talk to the local real estate agent about selling your house.
7. Open kitchen blinds or curtains, it is easier to clean glass than have the blinds/curtains cleaned.
8. Have two different colored tubs; one for new mix and one for old mix. Place on opposite sides of sink. It is very frustrating when you realize you have emptied out old mix into the tub full of new mix. Hence the need for more potting mix than required.
9. Can't stand scrubbing pots? Then don't. When you have the sink full of soapy water after washing down all scrubbable surfaces after the repotting exercise soak, and lightly wash out the used pots. Then into your empty tubs (the ones used for repotting) put in equal amounts of bleach and detergent and leave for a few hours (usually days). You should find all the build up salts etc. have dissolved. Then it's just a case of rinsing out and storing until next time you have time to repot.
10. DON'T FORGET YOU HAVE TO GO TROUGH THIS AGAIN.

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Official Journal of the AV Assoc. of Australia, Inc.*



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

MAIL ORDERS - SOME TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Did you see the picture of that beautiful violet? Do you own that violet? Know how to get it? Maybe a friend has it. Maybe you live near the hybridizer. Maybe someone will sell it at the next African violet show in your area. Maybe you can go to the next AVSA convention and buy it there. Maybe. If you really want it and want it reasonably soon, you probably have to send for it.

What do you need to know in order to be successful at mail-ordering? Understanding the way weather affects the process is essential. Knowing that you need to stay in communication with the African violet dealer if there are any problems or special needs provides extra insurance. Being prepared to pay extra for newer varieties of violets and speed-shipping will make the bill less painful. And yes, a measure of patience may be necessary.

Be aware, when you are purchasing standard-size hybrids, dealers will usually offer either starter-size plants (with little or no bloom) or leaf cuttings. Mature standards have less flexible foliage and are extremely difficult to ship successfully. Miniature and semiminiature violets are easier to ship at a mature stage and may be offered in many stages of growth.

It is important for any buyer to remember it is the hybrid strain that is being purchased. If you just wanted a nice plant you could go to your florist or grocery store. You want the special set of genes that are in one specific hybrid variety of African violets. Whether you buy a leaf cutting or a starter plant, it is the specific genetics of that hybrid that you are purchasing. As long as the leaf or plant is viable (capable of living and reproducing), you have received what you really want. It is wonderful when the leaf produces ten baby plants or the plant is already budded, but that is not always a realistic expectation.

Master these concepts and ordering African violets by mail can be very satisfying.

THE WEATHER

If you were ordering clothing or books by mail, you wouldn't have to consider the weather. But you wish to order living African violets, and you want them to be alive and flourishing long after they arrive. You must consider the weather. Your weather, the weather at the commercial dealer's location, and the weather everywhere in between are all important.

Since African violets do not tolerate temperatures below 45 degrees Fahrenheit for any length of time, they cannot be shipped without expensive packing when temperatures are near or below freezing at any point on the route. A few businesses offer special packing in insulated boxes and make every effort to ship year round. They must charge extra for this service. If you want to have your order shipped in the dead of winter (winter here, there or in-between), you should be ready to pay for adequate protection. You would also want to pay for rapid shipment so that the plants are not exposed to the extreme cold for any longer than necessary. Many dealers ship only in warmer months when cold is not a problem.

Violets will not tolerate extreme heat either. If temperatures are pushing 90 degrees (here, there and in-between) the shipper is likely to postpone shipping until it cools some. This is a good decision.

The limitations caused by weather mean that you must be more patient than you might be for other mail order purchases. Remember, too, that when weather extremes do not permit shipping, a backlog of orders can pile up. It can take a long time for the shipper to get caught up.

If you can't stand to wait, you must be willing to accept the possibility of damage and to pay extra for special packing and shipping.

You also **MUST** be ready and willing to unpack your plants the day (preferably the hour) that they arrive! If a package becomes too warm or too cold in transit, the inside of the package changes temperature. All of the insulation in the box holds that new temperature. If the plants are unpacked immediately, they will not suffer more than necessary. Leave them wrapped up in the package for even one extra day and the damage can be devastating. It would not be fair to ask the shipper to replace plants that are damaged (by neglect) after they have been received. Generally, any damage should be reported within twenty-four hours of arrival.

PLANT PRODUCTION

Every commercial grower and shipper would love to have a magic wand to wave so that they could always have every violet variety at the perfect stage for shipping all of the time. It would take magic, because it isn't possible.

Varieties of African violets grow at different rates and produce different numbers of baby plants in a clump. Some plants will produce in overabundance very quickly, and others will barely produce anything in a year's time. Variegated and chimera hybrids are often especially slow to produce. Plant cuttings that produce babies slowly usually come from plants that grow more slowly, making fewer leaves available for putting down.

Unexpected events can also change the demand for any one variety, rapidly reducing what seemed like an adequate supply. When a beautiful new African violet hybrid is pictured on the front cover of this magazine, the demand for that variety is going to swell. The editor often will advise the hybridizer that the picture is coming (which tells you how nice our editor is?), but other growers won't know until the magazine comes out. Similar things can happen when a newspaper does a special article, when a plant is featured on a computer web-site, or a plant wins best in show at a well-attended exhibition.

Since production of every variety varies, some plants on a mail order list might be mature while others might be very young. That must be timed to match good weather for shipping. It is a very difficult job.

SUBSTITUTING

Many commercial businesses request a list of substitutes. Most commercials prefer not to substitute at all, and do so only when the customer's order is impossible to fill as requested. This is especially likely to happen late in the shipping season.

If you cannot tolerate substitutes, you must place your order at the earliest possible time and be ready to wait for all plants to mature enough for shipping. If all available plants are already sold before your order comes in, the grower has to produce more before your order can be filled. Often, if one or two substitutes can be made, the order can be filled more quickly.

Listing substitutes guarantees that you will not get duplicates of plants already in your collection. If no substitutes are listed, the commercial grower has to guess as to your taste and preferences.

DROP-KICKED ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Packages that are shipped are at risk. Commercials label shipments with temperature needs and suggest which way should be up, but these are rarely useful to the shipping companies who use machinery and conveyor belts to move packages more efficiently. Workers are paid to be fast and efficient. Any package they handle must be able to withstand bouncing, stacking and temperature changes. Where a box ends up in a non-temperature controlled delivery vehicle is pure chance. The variations in sizes of boxes can make a truckload somewhat unstable, and shifting (and falling) is bound to happen occasionally.

Most violet mail order businesses have found ways to cope with these difficulties. However, occasionally leaves will get broken! No matter how securely plants are anchored inside a box, a hard enough bounce will jar plants and soil.

The quality of care during shipping does vary from one area of the country to another. If you know that one company provides superior service, advise the business so that they may choose the best method for you.

Packing a box of African violet plants and/or leaves to protect them during shipment takes care, and it takes time. Even a small order can take a half an hour to put together and pack. Since most commercials are very small businesses, there is often no one but the owner to do all the work. So again, have patience.

GOOD ADVICE

Commercial African violet growers learn a lot as they grow plants and ship to all areas of the country. They have access to inside information about the shipping industry that no amateur grower could know. They know what other growers have told them about how a specific variety grows in some areas. They know what laws govern certain areas. If a commercial makes a recommendation to you, accept that good advice. A fiasco (eg. the plants die and the business refuses to assume responsibility) can result when a customer insists on going against the advice of experience.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

We've already discussed patience, listing substitutes, placing orders as early as possible, and listening to advice. We'll assume that you remember to write legibly, include a return address, and enclose the correct payment.

We also mentioned, but will stress again here, that **you must be ready to unpack your violet shipment as soon as it arrives**. Your plants need to be exposed to fresh air, light, and good temperatures as quickly as possible. The slower you are, the more likely that plants will suffer. If there are times when you will not be home to receive packages, either find someone who can accept the package and take care of the plants, or advise the commercial violet grower to avoid shipping at that time.

You also have a responsibility to communicate any problem with your order in a prompt and proper manner. Don't get mad and get even without ever trying to get satisfaction!

HOW TO COMPLAIN ABOUT A PROBLEM ORDER

First, assume that you are dealing with a nice African violet hobbyist who wants you to enjoy your violets too. Most of these growers are operating out of small growing areas in their home. They are not making huge profits (most barely make anything). They do it to satisfy the demand for violets. They love violets and want to make them available to you! They are not crooks! Knowing that, you may assume they will listen when there is a problem.

Second, be aware that some businesses have different methods of handling orders. For example, some acknowledge the receipt of an order immediately, others consider that the cashing of the check is your acknowledgment. While you may prefer one method over another, a business is not necessarily dishonest because they choose to do it differently. They may be choosing the least costly way of doing things so that they can continue to stay in business.

Third, the instant that you are aware that there might be a problem with a shipment you have received, call or write to them. Calling is definitely best. If you suspect that package was delayed en route, that it got too hot or cold, or that there is an insect or disease problem, you must notify them immediately. Similarly, if you are unhappy with the accuracy of the order or the value you received, you must let them know. This allows the shipper to investigate and to work toward a solution immediately. If you wait and complain two or three weeks later, you may not find the shipper willing to work with you. There is no area of the perishable plant market, whether violet shipper, florist, or nursery, that would honor complaints that are made late.

Next, when you call or complain be ready to give the details of what happened in an orderly detailed way. Do not assume that the listener will understand what you mean

when you use vague terms. "The plants are awful" is vague. "The plants arrived with moldy centers" is specific. If there are any extenuating circumstances, explain them. Don't ask the shipper to accept responsibility for something beyond his control.

Be ready to come up with a solution. If you complain for the sole purpose of venting your anger, everyone will be frustrated. The purpose of complaining is to obtain satisfaction. Complaining is a great way to discover that a business offers exceptional service. Be ready to ask for a refund or a replacement, or credit, but be ready to compromise if you were partly responsible for the problem.

DO NOT libel the shipper, especially without talking to them first! Talking to the shipper first can bring positive results; only talking about the shipper won't really help anyone. There have been some unfortunate situations recently where customers have called complaints to AVSA or maligned businesses on the internet and at club meetings without ever talking to the business. This can become a legal situation. If you have presented your case to the business in a proper and timely way, and if you are making reasonable requests that are being ignored, then you may have the right to seek out help from a higher authority, such as the AVSA Commercial Committee. If you haven't followed the right path, your complaint may be dismissed or at the very least be called into question.

WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES

Easily 90% of all violet orders shipped arrive in reasonably good condition. Mistakes do happen. Customers can unwittingly make impossible demands. Businesses can foolishly try to do the impossible or try to cut corners. Mail sent to commercials placing orders or requesting lists are sometimes lost in the mail and never get to their destination, especially if they contain cash!

We have met African violet business owners who weren't very good managers. We have yet to meet one who really set out to cheat people deliberately. Unfortunately, there have been a few violet buyers out there who have lied about shipments received or who have failed to make payment. These few bad apples have made some business owners become quite defensive.

Commercials are concerned about their customers! Any good business person knows they are dependent upon repeat trade. Never forget that commercial growers are people too, and they encounter health and family problems like anyone else. Most do not make a lot of money at this business, and many have another job that pays the bills. They do love African violets, and they are performing a real service for the violet world.

There isn't anything quite like the excitement and anticipation of receiving a boxful of new and beautiful African violets. Get in on the fun!

Shows and Judges



Bill Foster
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
(972) 279-5993

The holiday season is over and it is time to start concentrating on the AVSA Convention in Sacramento and the Affiliate shows in our own areas. You will find all the convention information in this issue of the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE. Our convention is much earlier this year so be sure to take notice of the deadline dates on the various convention forms.

Perhaps the following discussion will serve as a “wake up” call to classification committees, exhibitors, and judges participating in the spring shows. Last year we had several instances of errors in the classification of some top award winners. The most prevalent of these errors was miniatures being selected as best semiminature or vice versa, trailers being selected as best miniature or semiminature, and non trailing varieties being selected as best trailer. All of these discrepancies were reported on the “And The Winners Are” report. Anytime errors of this nature are detected on the above report, the plant in question **WILL NOT** be reported in the “And the Winners Are...” column in the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE.

Errors of this type should not be made. The first obligation lies with the exhibitor. Secondly, classification should detect these errors, and even though some judges have told me they should not be held responsible for this, I feel the judges **should verify** the classification of the top award winners. If we all do our jobs we can prevent these errors in the future.

Here are some questions that have been received.

- Q. When is the judging of an Affiliate show officially closed? (This is in direct reference to the above discussion)
- A. The judging would be considered closed when the judges complete the paper work and return the sealed envelope to the show chairman. Anytime a

classification error is detected by anyone (clerks, judges, show chair, judges chair, etc.) it should be reported to the classification committee chair and the judges **immediately** so the error can be corrected **before it is too late**.

- Q. Is it a requirement to include all the “steps of propagation” on the Educational Exhibit?
- A. No. This has been discussed in this column before but perhaps we need to discuss it again. You have a choice as to what you do on this exhibit. You may choose to have a variety or you may choose one topic such as lighting, soil mixes, plant foods, methods of watering, species, etc. You could use species and lead into modern cultivars and then add a few of the other gesneriads. It is okay to include some of the other gesneriads as long as you have used African violets and/or the culture and propagation of African violets.

Good luck in your spring shows and I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Sacramento.

Please forget the new scale of points for judging new cultivars that I gave you in the September 1997 column. Two wrong words can make a world of difference in judging. Please use the following scale of points:

- Leaf pattern or form 25 points
- Condition 10 points
- Quantity of blooms
- (blossoms and buds showing color) . . 30 points
- Blossom form (size and type) 15 points
- Improvement or difference
- from any named variety 5 points

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

As I write this in early October, final work on a greenhouse attached to the rear of the shop, is about to be completed. Up until now all the plants had been grown under lights (lots of them), but we finally ran out of space. The greenhouse should effectively double the number of plants that can be grown. This will be my first experience growing violets "under glass, and by the time this column appears, winter will have arrived and the house should be full of plants. I've tried to anticipate all the likely problems this new environment will present, but I'm sure there's a few that will have to be resolved as they arise. We'll see.

As always, your questions are welcome but, because of my busy schedule a personal reply to every letter or e-mail can't be promised. I am always willing to answer phone calls since talking on the phone and working aren't mutually exclusive. I may also be e-mailed at robsviolet@aol.com. You might also want to check out our web-site at www.robsviolet.com. The site includes plenty of basic cultural information, including "how to" lessons on potting, propagation, etc. The AVSA site can be found at www.avsa.org.

QUESTION: *I wick water my plants and have noticed very tiny, thread-like insects hopping around on the surface of the soil and sometimes in the water. How do I get rid of these?*

ANSWER: What you most likely have are "springtails" which are long, thin, grayish-white insects perhaps 1/8" long. They can occasionally "hop" but often just wriggle around on the soil surface. Don't be overly concerned with their existence, first, because they usually do little harm to your violet, and second, because they are easily gotten rid of. Springtails feed on decaying organic matter in the soil and usually will damage the violet's root system only when there is a pre-existing problem such as root rot. To eliminate them many recommend a Malathion (1 tsp.1 gal.

water) or Clorox (1 tblsp.1 gal. water), but I find they can be easily eliminated without the use of any chemicals. Simply let the soil go dry before watering. Springtails thrive in wet soil, and if let dry thoroughly (but before wilting) you'll find that they will soon disappear.

Because plants that are "wicked" stay constantly wet, springtails can often be a problem for these plants. If you decide to wick-water, let the water reservoir (and soil) go dry before refilling. Besides controlling the springtail population, your violets will appreciate the short vacation from constantly wet feet. The soil will stay fresher longer and your violets will be healthier. In any event, I would strongly recommend not using (toxic) chemicals to control a problem when a nonchemical alternative is available and is just as effective. Even more so when the problem being attacked poses little danger to the health of the plant. Too many in our hobby are quick to reach for a chemical "quick-fix" when a safer (though sometimes less convenient) alternative can be used.

QUESTION: *My violets have seem to have suddenly stopped growing. The centers are tight and the new leaves seem to be deformed.*

ANSWER: This question is one that I recently received by phone and that I found particularly interesting. The answer was obvious, but didn't come to mind until the conversation was nearly ended and the critical information was finally divulged. The problem in this case was very acid water, or too low a pH. Neutral pH is 7.0 and violets prefer water and soil to be neutral to very slightly acid, in the approximate range of 6.7-7.0. A pH below 7.0 is considered acid, and above 7.0 is alkaline. If the soil/water becomes too acid or alkaline, nutrients in the soil become less available to the plant, so that even a well fertilized plant can suffer from malnutrition.

This particular grower had always used rain water to

water her plants. Rain water can often be quite acid, but for this grower it had never presented any problems over years of use, and we had eliminated all of the other likely causes of the problems. It was then revealed that the water had been collected as runoff from the roof, and that the home had just been reroofed. It was only then that her plants had begun to show signs of distress. Coincidentally, at that time I was having gutters added to the back of the barn, to keep water from running off of the roof and onto the glasshouse that would be built below. I have been told that the roof shingles make the runoff very acid, and I had been warned that the acidity of this runoff would etch the glass over time. The answer was suddenly very obvious! The water that was being used to water her violets was now too acid. If it were to be tested, it's likely that the pH would be far below 7.0. The previous, very old, roof had likely had enough of the acidic chemicals washed away over the years to make water collected from its runoff relatively harmless.

Even rainwater not collected in this way can present problems. I learned this when I moved to my present home, in a relatively rural area removed from industry or heavy traffic. Water that I collected in standing (plastic) barrels was not as clear and clean as I had expected. Along with the rain water was a surprising amount of soot and grime - it certainly was far from pure. Of course, "city" and well water can also have their problems (another story at another time). In any event, it's always a good idea to have the pH of both your soil and water tested, particularly if the source of either of these is changed.

QUESTION: *I see all kinds of advise about growing under lights but no one has committed themselves as to what type of fluorescents to use, "warm", "cool", or "grow-lights". Would you help me?*

ANSWER: This is a subject which requires more than a paragraph or two to adequately address. I'll keep the discussion simple for this reason (and because I'm far from an expert in this area). Basically the discussion revolves around two considerations: the light's "color" distribution and intensity. Very simply, light of different wavelengths ("color") are absorbed differently by the plant's leaves for photosynthesis (for growth). It's been found that light in the blue and red spectrum are most used by the plant. Artificial lights producing proportionally more light in these colors then, will presumably be more beneficial for the plant. Incandescent lights provide plenty of light in the "red" part of the spectrum, but these produce too much heat to be used successfully in growing violets. "Warm" and "cool" -white fluorescent bulbs generate less heat (and use less electricity) than incandescents and though they provide light in the blue part of the spectrum, provide very

little "red" light. "Grow-lights" have the advantage of providing much more of this "red" light.

In practice, however, light intensity seems more important in growing violets under artificial lights. Many people grow excellent violets under the ordinary, "cool-white" bulbs available at any hardware or department store. So long as the plants are getting enough light (length and intensity), the color spectrum seems of less importance. My personal experience has been that there is little apparent advantage to using any particular type of fluorescent bulb. For example, all of our show plants (and there are many) are grown under the cheapest "cool-white" bulbs found on sale at the hardware store, the "best" plants being grown under presumably the "worst" lights. We do use "Gro-lux WS" bulbs elsewhere in the shop, but only because these bulbs most closely approximate sunlight so that the "perceived" color that the customer sees in the shop is what they'll see at home in a window (i.e. "truth in advertising"). These bulbs are also much more pleasant to work under. But since show plants spend so much time disbudded and without bloom, why spend the extra money on expensive bulbs that are of little apparent benefit?

Finally, don't confuse light "intensity", with "efficiency". A bulb using less electricity, (watts) may simply produce the same light intensity, (lumens) more efficiently. Again, why not save money? These measures can change bulb to bulb, so be sure to "read the label" when purchasing bulbs.

QUESTION: *When should I repot a trailing violet into a larger pot?*

ANSWER: This depends on how you wish to display the plant. If you wish to grow the trailer as a "hanging" basket plant, you should use a smaller pot and let the "runners" trail over the pot's edge. A standard-size (larger leaved) variety might perhaps need a 5" to 7" pot when mature. Miniature and semiminiature varieties can be grown in a smaller pot. Shallow pots are best, since a violet's root system is relatively shallow, even for larger plants. Trailers grown this way often do best in "natural" (i.e. window) light since the vertical space isn't available on a light stand. It's also necessary to provide plenty of light from both the top and sides, to keep the plant from getting a "straggly" appearance, and this is best provided by a large window.

The other option is to grow these varieties as a "ground cover". Pot trailers into a wider pot as the runners begin to creep over the edge of the existing pot. When placed into a wider pot, the runners will simply continue to grow along the soil surface, rooting and producing new runners as it goes. Again, be sure to use shallow pots. Grown this way, the depth of the pot should be no more than perhaps 3".

Since wide, but shallow, pots are hard to find, I use "saucers" with holes drilled into the bottom for drainage. If deeper pots are used, add some drainage material, such as perlite, in the bottom when potting.

QUESTION: *My Streptocarpus has irregular sections that are missing from the edges of the leaves, as if something had been eating them. Any ideas?*

ANSWER: Actually this is something my "helper" experienced with a plant she had taken home from the shop. I've also been told similar stories by some of my violet growing friends. A week or so after telling me this she brought in a small black insect in a plastic baggie. She had found it on the plant and wondered whether it could have been the culprit. As it turns out it was. I couldn't identify it, but I knew who could. It just happened that a conference was being held by a large group of entomologists and plant pathologists in Rochester. Being only an hour's drive away, they had scheduled a tour of the

shop for the group. One of them quickly identified the insect as the "black vine weevil", a black wingless weevil about 3/8" long. All are female, do not fly, and disperse by walking or are transported by man or on infested material. Adult weevils feed on foliage, chewing out notches. Damage is usually not fatal, but often is unsightly. As larvae, the grubs feed on roots and underground stems, and can be more damaging than adults.

These are most commonly found on outside plants, but they can become nuisance pests when found indoors. Fortunately, infestations on houseplants are normally small, and control is best accomplished by removing adults by hand when found, even if they appear to be dead - it seems that the adults will "feign death" when disturbed! In any event, this is not likely to be a widespread problem for violet growers, but this mysterious plant damage has been described to me before. In this one instance it was nice to have the mystery solved.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 1 AUGUST - 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

AVS Windsor, W. Hartford, CT.	\$ 25.00	Fantasy VC, Brooksville, FL	\$ 5.00
Tristate AV Council (NY, NJ & PA)	\$400.00	Frances Olson, Rush City, MN	\$ 10.00
<i>Purchase and installation of bronze plaque</i>		<i>computer upgrade at the AVSA office</i>	
<i>honoring the memory of Lizeta Hamilton</i>		Robert Johnson, Wheat Ridge, CO	\$ 7.00
The Violet Patch of South FL.	\$ 25.00	<i>for Nell Sue Tyson memorial plaque</i>	
Adah R. Sutton, Columbus, OH.	\$ 10.00	Fay Chadwick, Willow Grove, PA	\$ 10.00
Brenda Brown, Strafford, TX.	\$ 20.00	<i>for memorial plaques to be displayed at AVSA office</i>	
Granada Hills AVS, Northridge, CA	\$ 25.00	San Marcos AVS, San Marcos, TX.	\$ 10.00
<i>In memory of Fred Bickle</i>		<i>computer upgrade for AVSA office</i>	
Unpredictables AVS, Grain Valley, MO.	\$ 10.00	AVSA Executive Committee	\$ 80.00
<i>Beaumont Office computer up-grade</i>		<i>In memory of Past Presidents, Harvey Stone</i>	
Delaware AVS, Wilmington, DE	\$ 10.00	<i>and Anne Richardson</i>	
<i>In memory of Richard Jones,</i>		Frank & Anne Tinari, Huntingdon Valley, PA	\$ 25.00
<i>husband of Barbara Jones, W. Chester, PA</i>		<i>for memorial plaques honoring Lizeta Hamilton</i>	
Lincoln AVS, Lincoln, NE	\$100.00	<i>and Nell Sue Tyson</i>	
<i>computer upgrade at the AVSA office</i>			
Union Co. Chapter AVSA, Roselle Park, NJ	\$ 25.00		
<i>computer upgrade at the AVSA office</i>			
		Total	\$817.00

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from August 1, 1997 to September 30, 1997

Leticia Potter, North Miami Beach, FL	\$100.00	AVC of Greater Kansas City, MO	\$ 62.00
Suzanne P. Altenburg, Houston, TX	\$ 10.00	<i>In memory of Frances Beaver</i>	
Allen Peek, Belleville, TX.	\$ 3.39	Unpredictables AVS, Grain Valley, MO.	\$ 10.00
The Crosstown AVC, Madison, WI.	\$ 15.00	San Marcos AVS, San Marcos, TX.	\$ 35.00
Metropolitan St. Louis Judges Council, St. Louis, MO.	\$ 5.00	Anonymous	\$ 5.00
Martha Bibbins, Cambridge, MA.	\$ 18.00	Bergen County AVS, Hakensack, NJ	\$ 25.00
Union County Chapter AVS, Roselle Park, NJ	\$ 50.00		
		Total	\$338.39

"And the winners are..."



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

GATEWAY AVC, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Dunlap**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hondo Honey, Irish Flirt, Joy's Pink Halo; Best in Show/Best Standard: Looking Glass; Best Miniature: Tamsen, **Ardath Miller**. Best Seminiature: Blue Blend, **Pat Dunlap**. Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Kevin Rice**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Brocade', **Patty Smith**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Fran Russom**.

PARMATOWN AVC, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Chiffon Maritime Variegated, Chiffon Prince, Vintage Wine; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Falling Stars'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Neumann**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Van Gogh, Chiffon Maritime Variegated, Favorite Child, **Martha Bell**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Precious Pink, Rob's Heebie Jeebie; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best

Standard: Picasso; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Marian Tisdale**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sticky Wicket, Rob's Toorooka, Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Linda Berry**. Best Miniature: Rob's Fo Fum, **Ken Keipert**.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frosted Whisper, Devil-may-care, Snowflake Hill; Best Standard: Margery's Melody, **Bonnie Henell**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Melodie Kimi, Rhapsodie Sonja, **Eric West**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Precious Pink, Teen Surprise; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Best Miniature: Spring Peach, **Janice Bruns**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lace Shadows, Pink Playmate, Irish Flirt, **Irene Merrell**. Best Trailer: Rob's Toorooka, **Rosalie Trevallee**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kevin Degner**. Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii*, **Fay Skews**. Design Sweepstakes, **Arlene Garvens**.



Sacramento Convention '98 WHAT'S YOUR LINE?

They wore clothes that advertised their profession. Riverboat Captains, Gamblers, Ladies of the Night, and Miners. Civilians could be categorized as Bankers, Store Keepers, Cowboys, and Farmers, who in turn rubbed elbows with gunfighters.

This was the scene in Old Sacramento when gold was in it's heyday. Everyone was trying to separate the miner from his hard earned gold.

It's not gold but there will be prizes for the best costumes representing this era at the Friday Night Banquet.

Surely one of the occupations mentioned above will trigger your imagination. Just a bandanna around your neck is a good start.

Barbara Elkin,
AVSA 1998 Sacramento Convention Chairman

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

Now that the weather has cooled down for winter, grower's often notice that their plants with colored edges are becoming solid colored while the plants with Geneva edges have never looked better. This change in flower color is due to a combination of genetics and environment. The genes for flower color make enzymes that produce the flower pigments. In some cases, these enzymes are sensitive to temperature and may not function if the temperatures are too warm or too cold. The enzymes of flowers with colored edges (raspberry edges excluded) function best at colder temperatures. When the temperature is too warm, the enzymes fail to make the flower pigments in the centers of the flowers, resulting in bicolors or edged flowers. When the temperature is cool, the enzymes can function and more and more of the flower will become colored. Under very cool conditions, the flowers may become completely colored. The white edges of Geneva flowers result when the growing temperatures are too cool for the enzymes to function. Under warm conditions, the flowers are able to make the pigment and the edges will become fully colored.

If your flowers are not showing the "proper" colors, try switching the plant to a different growing temperature. As the new flower buds form, the temperature sensitive enzymes will respond to the changed conditions and should produce the "proper" colored flowers.

Q: *I recently found a plant with star-shaped flowers where the "upper" two petals were tipped with a darker color. How would I breed more of this type of tipped flower?*

A: Congratulations for finding such an interesting plant! The tipped bloom trait has generally been reported as a genetic dominant and should breed true in the first generation. What is interesting in this case, however,

is the combination of tipped blooms with star-shaped flowers. Most star-shaped blooms should be tipped equally on all 5 petals, not just the "upper" two. Your plant is not totally following "the rules" on how these two traits should be expressed together.

Try crossing the plant with another star-shaped bloom cultivar. Star-shaped blooms are recessive and this cross should give 100% star-shaped offspring. If the tipped bloom trait is indeed inherited as a dominant, you should get 50-100% tipped blooms. If you get results other than this, be sure to let me know. It might mean you have something unusual that will need further study.

Q: *If you only have one plant of a cultivar and it produces variable blooms, how do you know when the plant is sporting or when variable flowers is the normal thing the plant is suppose to do?*

A: The best way to solve this dilemma is to check the hybridizer's description and the Master Variety List. If the plant normally produces variable flowers, this should be noted in the description. If the plant has been correctly labeled (always something to keep in mind), then the description and plant should match. If they don't match, then the plant may have sported.

Another method is to check with other growers who have grown this same cultivar. A quick check with others will usually help determine if the plant is variable or has sported.

Q: *What controls the distribution of fantasy dots across the bloom surface?*

A: The distribution of fantasy dots appears to be the result of random chance. The gene that causes

fantasy is unstable and keeps switching off and on. If the gene is not working, pink shades are the result. In the few cells that have a working copy of the gene, the blue pigment is made and a fantasy "spot" is made.

The size and number of the spots is also the product of how many copies of the fantasy gene the plant has. If the plant is heterozygous and only has one copy, then the chance that the gene will work is lower and few blue spots will be produced. When the plant is homozygous dominant for fantasy, then each cell has two copies of the gene. This increases the likelihood that at least one copy of the gene will be switched on, producing more blue fantasy dots. Plants with two copies of the gene are easily detected because of the higher number of fantasy dots produced in their blooms.

The homozygous plants are very desirable for plant breeding. Since they have two copies of the gene, all of their offspring will inherit the fantasy trait, giving 100% fantasy in the next generation.

Q: *If I cross a plant which has pale lavender flowers with a plant with puff fantasy, can I get a plant which has pink puffs on a lavender background?*

A: Yes, there is a chance that this cross would give you offspring having pink puffs on a lavender background. However, the genetic combination that produces lavender flower color does not breed true. Many of your offspring will likely have pink background, rather than lavender. You may need to grow out a large number of seedlings to find one with a lavender background.

You might also try crossing the lavender flowered plant to a puff fantasy plant that has pink puffs on a red background, rather than blue. The different background color may "mix" things up more genetically and give you a higher chance of getting a lavender background. Good luck!

Q: *Can mosaic and crown variegation be combined into the same plant?*

A: The mutations that give mosaic and crown variegation are found in the chloroplasts. The chloroplasts are inherited from the seed parent. In order to get both combined into one plant, the seed parent would already have to have this combination. Therefore, I would not expect this combination to normally be possible.

However, I do have a seedling in my collection that appears to be a possible combination of mosaic and crown variegation. The seed parent of this seedling was a crown variegated plant 'Berry Splash' and the pollen parent was a mosaic variegated plant, 'Art Deco'. The foliage is marked in the mosaic pattern, but the variegation is only seen in the young leaves of the plant. When the leaves mature, the mosaic pattern disappears and the leaves become solid green. This loss of variegation is the same as that observed in crown variegated plants, so perhaps this seedling is a combination of the two foliage mutations. Several seedlings of this same cross had "traditional" mosaic variegation while others appeared to be solid green. The results were not the expected 100% seedlings with crown variegation, so something would appear to be unusual about the cross.

In Memory

Evan Paul Roberts

Dr. Evan Paul Roberts, an early supporter of AVSA, member of the Scientific Committee in the early 1950's and frequent contributor to the African Violet magazine recently passed away.

Dr. Roberts, of the Department of Horticulture of Michigan State College, was very active in the world of African violets in the early days. A gifted writer, his first contribution to the AVM appeared in the second issue in 1947.

"In the part of Africa near where Stanley met Dr. Livingstone, where Mt. Kilimanjaro towers 19,000 feet to be Africa's highest peak, where Lake Victoria, the source of the Nile, originates and where the world's newest diamond mine is located, you'll find the home of the African violet."

In April, 1948, Dr. Roberts was successful in securing and importing plants of three new species of

African violets from Africa, describing them in detail for the readers of the AVM. He also contributed many articles on diseases that affected African violets, offering descriptions of the symptoms and methods of prevention.

At AVSA's fifth convention, Dayton, OH, 1951, Dr. Roberts gave a well-received presentation on the nine *Saintpaulia* species then known to be in existence. His various contributions helped advance the interest in African violets, and provided early members of this society with valuable information.



Evan Paul Roberts

Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

KEEPING 'EM "IN SIZE"

The greatest struggle in growing the small ones is trying to keep them "in size," meaning, within the size limits set by AVSA. Specifically, the diameter of the plant must not exceed 8 inches for a semiminiature and 6 inches for a miniature. The blooms may go over this limit, but not the foliage. This measurement should be taken using a circle constructed from cardboard, plastic, etc. set at the exact limits, or more easily, using an embroidery or macrame hoop of metal or wood. (Warning: these hoops can measure 8 or 6 inches around the outer or inner edge, so be sure and measure the inner dimension exactly, using a ruler so you know the exact parameters before you measure a plant. Using the inner edge is not reliable.) The hoop or circle should be slowly, carefully dropped over the plant (as in moved from a higher to lower position, as opposed to "sudden"), keeping it as horizontal as possible. If any leaf touches the edge, allowing for any deviations, the plant must be worked with: remove a leaf or leaves to bring it back into symmetry, or as is often the case, leave the plant at home. Note also, do not set the ring on the table placing the plant inside and then "eyeball" it. This leads to an errant measurement (trust me, it does...it has something to do with physics)! As always, give the exhibitor the benefit of the doubt.

IDENTIFY YOUR PURPOSE

Having said all the above, let's take a step back. This rule applies ONLY if you are growing for show. If you are a home grower and love your plants "just because", you can ignore it. You can grow an 8 inch miniature, and just as long as you're happy with it, so be it. However, most of us grow the small ones because we have space limitations. Our whole purpose in purchasing them is because we can comfortably get four 6 inch plants on our kitchen window sill. Or we only have one light, and 32 small ones can be grown under it instead of eight standards. For years I grew all my miniatures on top of my upright piano under a 24 inch light. Those were the days my small ones were

misunderstood and just barely tolerated. (These were also the days my standards were packed under shop lights, leaves madly intertwined, but blooming happily.) I knew there were size limits imposed, but my primary purpose was blooms and enjoyment . . . size mattered little.

STRATEGIES FOR HAPPINESS

Because so many of us grow small ones to conserve space we must make an effort to keep them small. Our starting point is the Master Variety List or the hybridizer's list which identifies how the plants should be grown: either miniature or semiminiature, and sometimes micro miniature. What this really tells us is under the hybridizers conditions, a particular plant behaves in a certain manner. As growers we are left to calculate how it will grow in our conditions. For example, Dr. Ralph (Rob) Robinson lives in temperate western New York state. He undergoes milder summers, and long, cold winters. Contrast that with Hortense Pittman, whose growing conditions are influenced by very hot summers, and mild winters. Rob's plants have a tendency to grow too big in warmer climates. Hortense's plants stay very small in cooler conditions. So our first strategy is to consider the hybridizer's environment in comparison with our own when selecting plants.

A second strategy is to offer less fertilizer, a practice I have heard some people advocate. Theoretically, growth will be less than ideal, which in and of itself will keep a plant small. Compare any plant that is well fertilized with one that is starved. The leaves of the former will be "lush": greener, larger and thicker. It will be more resistant to disease. If it's a blooming plant, its blooms will be larger, more colorful and abundant. In other words, I can't recommend this practice. It's better to give the offending plant away to someone who has room for it than to purposefully get less than optimum results. An option that is more acceptable is to use a typical African violet fertilizer as compared to another fertilizer that emphasizes foliar growth. Thus, we would use a 12-36-14 rather than a 20-20-20 or a 15-30-15 and not a 19-23-17. Again, the

emphasis would be on blooms, not foliage. May I also suggest that foliar feeding is beneficial to our small ones, and done prudently does not cause them to go over size. The plant's size will be more dependent on your primary fertilizer and not an occasional foliar feeding.

Another strategy is using small pots for plants that tend to ignore your desire for them to stay in size. Semiminiatures are placed in 2 1/4 or 2 1/8 inch pots, sometimes less. Miniatures are grown in 2 inch or less pots. There are those plants which will not cooperate even at this point. For them, the answer is miniaturizing. This is the process whereby plantlets are potted into very tiny thumb pots less than 1 inch in diameter or in 1 ounce solo cups having the effect of restricting the root growth and causing the violet to be "bonsai-ed." Very adorable plants are the result of this process, but again, a price is paid. Because of the smaller root system, less bloom often results.

Another strategy is to simply let our small ones bloom which is not a novel concept, however, to the showman it's taboo. There are two primary reasons for removing bloom stalks before they develop (better known as disbudding): it creates larger, more lush foliage, and minimizes the thrips population. Every showman knows one of the side effects of allowing plants to come into full bloom is smaller center leaves. By allowing our plants to bloom constantly they will more easily stay in size. Essentially, smaller leaves are exchanged for well-timed, massive, and thripless heads of bloom.

THE SHOWMAN'S DILEMMA

By now, we should all have a better appreciation of the person who grows and shows the small ones. Because of the size restrictions on the plants, showmen have a greater onus upon them than merely growing a great plant. They must grow a great plant while incorporating restrictions that take away from growing a great plant. If they miniaturize they will be criticized for not having enough bloom despite the obvious talent it takes to successfully miniaturize. They must carefully watch the fertilizer to make sure it's not too potent, manage the pot size, carefully disbud, and be cognizant of the hybridizer in order to come

up with a great combination for a show plant. They must know their plant inside and out, knowing exactly which combination will work for which plant.

READER'S WRITE

Pat Soares in California writes:

"I really got an adrenaline surge when I got to the miniaturizing section (of your column) . . . If the poor plant can be kept badly pot bound, a lot of beautiful, healthy growth removed, then by heroic measures forced into bloom, that makes it a mini or semi.

"I wonder if perhaps we need to rethink our class requirements. Instead of the width 6"-8" . . . perhaps leaf size would be more sensible. 1 inch and less could be mini, no matter how large and beautiful, 1 to 2 inches semi mini, and over 2 inches standard. We might also consider adding a miniaturized class for any variety, to show the skill of the growers who enjoy miniaturizing."

One of the first individuals to communicate with me about my column was **Edward Bradford** of New York, a preeminent grower of the small ones. He stated emphatically, "Small ones should be classified not by how big they grow, or are allowed to grow, but by leaf size alone." He felt this was particularly true of trailers.

And consider this thoughtful piece from **Joyce Stork**, who says, "From the beginning, hybridizers can tell by the size of the leaf what type of plant it will be. They don't grow it for a year and wait, they look at the leaf size." She adds, "Violets should be judged by how many rows of magnificent leaves are there. Rarely do we see really mature minis and semis with the many rows of leaves that are possible . . . It's the size and multiple layers that catch the imagination of the public."

As always, I encourage discussion on this subject and would be most happy to hear any thoughts you have on the subject of keeping 'em in size.

NEXT TIME

Our March issue will feature another guest columnist, this time from the middle of the country. Expert grower Jan Bruns of Illinois has agreed to provide us with her thoughts on growing the small ones. See you in May!

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17611 N. 102nd Drive

Sun City, AZ 85373-1616

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WHY JOIN AN AFFILIATE?

Bev Promersberger - Affiliate Committee
17415 Charter Pines Drive
Monument, CO 80132

"I went to a club meeting to learn how not to kill my violet." This is just one of the answers I received from a survey I conducted of AVSA Affiliates and members across the United States.

The first question I asked people was, "Why did you join a local affiliate?" The most common reason, without a doubt, was first of all, to learn how to grow African violets and secondly, how to grow them better.

People joined local AVSA affiliates because they hoped to learn more about African violets from people who knew more. They wanted to grow beautiful plants like they saw at a mall sale or at a local show. They desired to spend time with people who shared their hobby. One lady needed to make sure that she learned how to care for the African violet she received from her mother-in-law when she first got married. She now has 1,100 plants, has become a judge and shares her knowledge of design with other affiliates.

One member was looking for "an outlet from being a HOUSEWIFE." Another member found a chance to meet and fellowship with people in the area, something she didn't have time to do when she was raising her children. Other members joined to exchange ideas about growing or to exchange leaves from new and different varieties. Some even joined because they were interested in "showing."

I joined a local society because my husband encouraged me. I had three violets in my front window that were growing and blooming well. He thought I might be able to find a source for new varieties. Little did he know what it would lead to! I do have to remind him now and then how I got started!

The second question I asked was, "What did you gain from being a member of an affiliate?" Almost everyone who responded not only received what they had joined for, but much more. The most common response was friends and friendships. "Friendships I'll treasure," "wonderful friends," "lifelong friends," and "unnumbered friends I would never have known under other circumstances," are just a few of the many comments.

One member commented that her affiliate "provided exposure to and availability of many new and exciting varieties." Even though she had been introduced to African violets by her grandmother and had been growing

them since she was a teenager, she was unaware that anything besides the grocery store varieties existed. Through membership in her local affiliate, she has become a more serious grower.

Most members have not only increased their knowledge of the African violet and how to grow them, but they have become interested in showing, judging, and in sharing their knowledge by presenting programs to other affiliates as well as their own. Others learned how to propagate and to incorporate their love of violets into container gardens and designs.

Like many members, one commented that she was not only exposed to many new varieties of the African violet but to other gesneriads as well. In addition to receiving answers she was looking for she gained an "unlimited thirst" for more plants, violets and other gesneriads. One member "expanded" her plant collection and another is "swamped" with beautiful African violets. Sound familiar?

Having moved around as much as I have, I have grown to appreciate the need for the local affiliate even more. Areas differ in more ways than I ever anticipated. The local affiliate should be the best source for your local answers: problems common to the area, soil mixes that are better for use in a particular area, local water conditions, even when to stop disbudding for show.

One local member shared that it's more than getting educated. It's personal, more accessible. You can call a local member if you have a problem. Another member summed her affiliate membership in these words, "I've gained much more than I hoped for and a world of beauty and pleasure beside."

If you're not a member of a local affiliate and are interested in learning more about growing the African violet and the people who grow them, check the September '96 issue of the African Violet Magazine for the local club nearest you. If there isn't one, contact me by mail or E-mail <promers@juno.com> for a packet of information which will give you all the information you need to start a new affiliate.

We would still appreciate your sharing a copy of your yearbook and newsletter. It is one of the best ways for us to see what you are doing. Let us continue to share and grow together.

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

In the last issue I regaled you with a lot of fish stories. This time I am writing about Vintage Violets and their growing popularity.

What I forgot to mention is that Linda Golubski, Chairman of the Awards Committee, petitioned the AVSA Board about making a special class for Vintage Violets in Convention Shows. It passed and we now have our own class. The two societies I belong to, have followed suit. With their own class, these plants don't compete with the newer and better blooming plants. If your members are growing some of these older plants, why not make a separate class for them too.

As a Teacher and Senior Judge, I would like to ask all judges judging this class to remember that some of these

plants are over thirty years old and don't bloom as heavily as some of the more recent introductions. In other words, show some respect for your elders!

I am in the process of growing some real old varieties and find that they are just as lovely as the newer ones but don't bloom as freely. Case in point is 'Ruffled Queen', a Supreme. Twelve flowers is about all this old girl can come up with. I've boosted it with all the modern fertilizers and still only twelve flowers. (Somehow I feel a kindred spirit here.)

Remember, when getting a start of something from someone good enough to send it, always return the postage. If you are asking me for information, always enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope for my reply.

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

Amethyst

Clipper

Crown of Red

Dare Devil

Innocent Flirtation

Interlude

Joann

Kiss't

Lavender Lady

Lilac Puff

Mermaid

Michelle

Norseman

Red and White

Renee

Roseberry

Shannon Renee

Sheryl's Renee

Shine Boy

Skagit Ambassador

Sky Magic

Viking

Whisper Valley

Attention Affiliates

At the recent meeting of the AVSA Executive Committee, it was decided to remove the Affiliate Publications section from the Handbook. A number of judges' groups had made this suggestion and since the Handbook is being reprinted, the Executive Committee felt that this should be done prior to the reprinting.

1998 AVSA Board of Director Nominees



For Director: Dolores Gibbs of San Marcos, Texas has been a member of AVSA for 21 years, is a Life Member and Advanced Judge. She is a charter member of First Austin AVS and has presided as president, vice president, and served on various committees within the club.

She has also been a member of Central Texas Judges Council since becoming a judge, serving as president for 2 years. As a member of Lone Star AV Council she is serving as historian and on the Executive Board, and will be convention chairman for the 1998 State Convention.

Her first AVSA Convention was in August 1978, and she has attended seven in all. Dolores enjoys growing violets for competition and for the club sales, and has won many awards over the years, including Best of Show. She is also very interested in the other gesneriads and container gardens. She won Best Container Garden in Affiliate, Lone Star, Dixie and in 1996 in the AVSA National Show at Atlanta. Married for 48 years, Dolores has four children and five grandchildren. She enjoys traveling and being with her grandchildren.



For Director: Olive Ma, of Taiwan, has enjoyed gardening since childhood. A graduate of Providence College, Olive majored in Western Language and Literature.

The jobs she had after graduation were mostly related to English, international trade, language school, and immigration before she began running a little nursery; Violetfun Greenhouse. Her many hobbies include sewing, cooking, handicrafts, woodwork, Chinese brush writing, Chinese paper cutting, playing guitar, photography and traveling. She also plays basketball, volleyball, badminton and ping pong. Attending the AVSA convention each year allows her to visit different places.



Besides her membership in AVSA, Olive is also a member of the Taiwan AVC, where she serves as secretary, and the Japan Saintpaulia Society.



For Director: Wilma Namumnart of Hawaii, has been a member of AVSA for 2 years and has over two hundred African violet plants growing in various places in her home and office. She has a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering and a Master's degree in Public Administration. She is a

licensed civil engineer in the State of Hawaii and works for the City and County of Honolulu in the Department of Public Works/Refuse Division. She has three children. In addition to growing African violets, she likes sewing, quilting, computers, theater work, and travel.

The African Violet Society of Hawaii is an elite group which holds informal meetings and no judged events since there are no qualified judges in Hawaii. The group meets to share growing methods, new ideas, and plants.



For Director: Patricia J. Sutton, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, has been a member of AVSA since 1978 and is a Senior Judge. Pat has been a member of the AVS of Greater Tulsa since 1978 and is currently serving as vice-president, for the second time. She has served the club as president four times, show chairman five times and twice as treasurer. Pat is also a member of the Missouri Valley AV Council and is currently judges chairman.

Pat attended her first AVSA convention in 1988 and has attended every convention since.



A native of Oklahoma, Pat has been married for over forty years and has three children and four grandchildren. Her hobbies include genealogy and antiques.



For Director: Mary Ann Switzer of Chesterfield, Missouri, has been an AVSA member since 1973 and an AVSA Life Member since 1983. In the past she has served as president of the Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council and the West County

AV Club. She is now president of the Amethyst AVC. She also belongs to the Missouri Valley AV Council. She has attended eleven AVSA conventions.

Mary Ann enjoys writing "how to" articles for the African Violet Magazine. She has received two certificates of appreciation from AVSA for her articles which include: "How To Build A Plant Stand", "Make A Travel Case For Your Violets" and "Successful Propagating From Bloom Stalks".

Mary Ann has a bachelor's degree in psychology from St. Louis University and worked as a welfare caseworker before her children were born. Mary Ann has been married for twenty-five years, and has two children who are college students. When not working with her African violets and *Streptocarpus*, Mary Ann enjoys the hobbies of stained glass, quilting and outdoor gardening.

Not Dead Yet!

by Elizabeth Whitesides
Raleigh, NC

African violets have a reputation for being temperamental, fussy, and delicate. To some extent they are, but they are also extremely tenacious creatures, able to bounce back from even the most idiotic blunders of their caretakers. This summer I was able to witness this fine character trait firsthand.

Last spring I noticed the centers of a few of my violets looked strange - sort of tight and distorted. I feared it was cyclamen mites. Not being a big fan of inorganic pesticides, I decided to try the hot water treatment, a technique I read about in several postings on *Gesneriphiles* (the Gesneriad e-mail group). Cyclamen mites are killed by heat, so with this technique, one immerses an affected violet in 110 to 115 degree F water for 15 to 20 minutes. Some of the people who tried this method reported great success and no damage to their plants. I was not so fortunate.

As a preventative, I decided to use this method on all the plants around the affected ones, including an old, sentimental favorite. After I finished immersing the plants, I set them on the counter to dry. They looked fine. My husband and I went out on some errands, and when I returned a few hours later, all of those plants had completely collapsed into a pile of slime. I had cooked every one of them! Apparently my candy thermometer is not very accurate - no wonder my fudge never comes out right!

Of course I was upset, but especially so over my old favorite. I do not know this violet's real name, but I call her

"Aunt Gert" after my 96 year old great-aunt whose African violet collection inspired me to start one of my own. All the dead plants went into the trash except "Aunt Gert" - I just couldn't let her go. Only two small leaves remained, the rest were cooked to brown mush, including most of the main stem. I removed the slimy, cooked leaves and crown, scraped off the mush from the stem, and repotted what was left into a 2-cup plastic deli container.

For weeks nothing happened, but I was encouraged that the two remaining leaves were hanging in there. Eventually several new crowns started to form. I waited a few more weeks and removed all but the two best looking ones. When these crowns were big enough, I rooted them on their own. Today, seven months later, I have two 4" plants that are putting up their first blooms!

There are several morals to this story. The first one was provided by my husband upon first surveying the damage I had wrought: "Next time you try something new, just do it on one or two plants first!" Second, make sure you are applying the right solution to the right problem. My problem actually turned out to be a little too much light and food. Third, do not be too quick to give up on your plants, even if they look hopeless (it does not get much more hopeless than cooked!). If there is a glimmer of life left, there is hope. With a little TLC, those temperamental, fussy, delicate violets may just show you how tough they really are.

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$100. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

John Brownlie - Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

***Decelles' Defi** (8658) 8/18/97 (Brownlie/Decelles) Semidouble blue-purple pansy/pink fantasy. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**

Alannah Regan - Danville, WA

***Futuriste** (8659) 9/19/97 Regan/Croteau) Semidouble mauve star/darker veining, raspberry edge. **Variegated** medium-dark green, cream and pink, quilted. **Standard**

***Lambert Closse** (8660) 9/19/97 (Regan/Croteau) Semidouble lavender-red large star. **Variegated** medium green and cream. **Standard**

***Phobos** (8661) 9/19/97 (Regan/Croteau) Semidouble burgundy star/pink fantasy. Medium green, quilted.

Large

***Scenario** (8662) 9/19/97 (Regan/Croteau) Semidouble violet-red/variable purple edge. **Variegated** medium green, cream and light pink, quilted. **Large**

Denis Croteau -Longueuil, Quebec, Canada

***Alliance** (8663) 9/27/97 (D. Croteau) Semidouble medium blue star/white and pink fantasy. **Variegated** green, cream and pink. **Standard**

***Dora Picard** (8664) 9/27/97 (D. Croteau) Semidouble light pink star/variable raspberry edge. **Variegated** medium green, cream-pink and tan. **Standard**

***Lucien Croteau** (8665) 9/27/97 (D. Croteau) Semidouble plum pansy/pink fantasy. **Variegated** medium green, cream and pink, quilted. **Standard**

***Stephanie Croteau** (8666) 9/27/97 (D. Croteau) Semidouble dark purple star/dark coral fantasy, white edge. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

Attention Affiliates

If you would like to have your yearbook, newsletter, or magazine displayed at the Convention in Sacramento, please send them to: **Beverly Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. Please mail by 3/15/98.**

These Affiliate Publications will be displayed in

the show so visitors may look at them and get ideas. After the show Beverly will use them in Affiliate Packets. Remember, **your publications are not being judged and do not have to follow any set rules** so if you feel they are worthy of sharing, send them in!

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY



by Henry B. Rinick, Jr. • Gulf African Violet Club
Cape Coral/Fort Myers, Florida

Anna-Marie and I have been married for over 39 years. We have raised 3 children to adults and currently have 5 lovely grandchildren. We lived in western New York state for 27 years and thought that we were having "fun". In 1988, we moved to south-western Florida, Cape Coral, near Fort Myers, which is 120 miles south of Tampa. This subtropical area is "paradise" and now we really are having "fun".

Anna-Marie is artistically talented and is a perfectionist in everything that she does; cooking, sewing, knitting, cross-stitching, making Christmas decorations using sea shells that we collect, and of course, giving "tender love and care" to her African violets.

Up north she always worked in the yard and really enjoyed her flowers outside as well as her house plants. In Florida, we have many "critters" outside, including snakes, of which she is petrified. (Coral, Pygmy Rattlesnakes, Diamondback Rattlesnakes, and dozens of non-poisonous varieties). There are also Fire Ants, Brown Recluse poisonous spiders, and many other members of the animal kingdom. These are just a few of the reasons that she doesn't enjoy working in the outside yard in Florida. However, she became more interested in indoor house plants and especially African violets.

In November 1995, we saw an announcement about a sale of plants, sponsored by the Gulf African Violet Club at a local shopping mall. There were to be lectures and demonstrations about growing African violets throughout the hours of the sale. Anna-Marie had purchased several plants prior to this and we couldn't understand why they stopped blooming, so we decided to go to the sale. The demonstrations were very enlightening and educational. We learned about repotting, reservoir-wick watering, soilless potting mixture, leaf propagation, etc. We were there for about 3 hours absorbing all the information and seeing the beautiful African violets. We purchased several flowering plants and leaves and since we spent so much time there, they invited us to their next meeting.

After attending 3 or 4 meetings we decided to join the organization. At every one of the meetings, there was a major subject program, more discussions or demonstrations, door prizes of leaves, and sale of starter plants. We were "hooked" on growing African violets for show.

We didn't have a light stand, but we have 5, 15-watt fluorescent lights under the cabinets in the kitchen which

we used for the African violets. Anna-Marie entered 2 plants at the Gulf African Violet Club Show in March 1996. Her 'Snow Squall' received Best of Section, and Best of Class and a blue ribbon. 'Lacy Parasol' won a blue ribbon. These awards were "icing on the cake".

We became more involved with the workings of the club and Anna-Marie purchased a 5-shelf PVC stand, 36" long, 18" wide, and 72" high, with 18" between the shelves. She also purchased 2, 20-watt fluorescent bulbs to go over each of the shelves. It didn't take too much time to fill the new plant stand.

There are also plants along the kitchen shelves, along with some on window sills in each of the three bedrooms and a window sill in one bathroom (which she used to isolate some of the plants). Currently the count is over 300 plants!

At the March 1997 show of the Gulf African Violet Club, Anna-Marie entered 33 plants, of which 31 received blue ribbons. Her other awards were, Horticultural Award for most ribbons and awards, the AVSA Standard Collection Award with 'Evening Shade', 'Snow Squall', and 'Rose Picturesque'; Best Standard Award with 'Illini Peace' which also won Best of Section and Best of Class. She also won Best of Class for several other varieties. I believe this is phenomenal for her first serious show. Fantastic! (I told you that she is a perfectionist).

Oh, by the way, I entered 4 plants in the March 1997 show and won 3 blue ribbons, received Best of Section and Best of Class with 'Groovy' Sport and won Best of Section and Best of Class in the Novice Division with 'Optimara Hawaii'. Not too bad for a novice!

At the Florida State Show in Tampa, we met Carol Schreck and volunteered to help her at the Registration Desk during the AVSA convention in St. Petersburg, in June 1997. After attending this convention and working our "fannies" off, we both feel that this was an experience of a lifetime; very rewarding and educational. We met a lot of people that we were reading about; Rita Hilton, L. T. Ozio, Dr. Charles Cole and many others. Learning cultural practices, pest control, and sharing ideas with other members are some of the reasons for attending any African violet show. As you read this, you can see that Anna-Marie and I are really African Violet lovers, as are you. Joining our local club, and AVSA, have been rewarding experiences for us both.

EVERYONE IS AN EXPERT

by Don Geiss • Fredric, MI

"I chop up banana peels and put them on top of the pot of my African violets" the lady said as she approached us at our booth during a sale. She claimed that this addition was the cause of beautiful flowers on her plant.

That is only one of the many comments we have heard during or after our many workshops on raising and caring for these colorful plants.

Of course most of us have heard about coffee grounds used in the same way. Tea leaves are also frequently mentioned as the ideal additive. One wonders how soon the pot is full of the material and whether a larger pot is used when the smaller one is filled.

We have long since avoided any arguments to the contrary about these ideas because, first of all, we have never tried to use these additives. In the second place, the people who tell us about these activities are so proud of their success that we would never think of belittling the things they do. Thirdly, while we like to think that modern day fertilizer solves the problems calling for additives, the folks who use them probably started the practice before the chemicals became readily available. In point of fact, they probably do, in their own way, fertilize the plant.

These ideas however, hardly scratch the surface of suggestions that people make. There is the group of AV lovers who insist that watering from below is the only way to go. Others say water from the top. Of course other types of watering including mat and reservoir are also related. We must say though, that in our area of coverage, few people have ever heard of the wick and reservoir system.

The correct window in which to locate violets is another familiar comment made by proud growers. Some say an east window, some say west, some say south, and invariably there is a proponent of the north window. In each case the person telling the tale has success or they probably would not brag about it. Who are we to tell them that they are not correct?

Water also comes into play in a different way because the folks at shows and sales always bring up the idea of never getting the stuff on the leaves. In one case where we conducted a workshop in a florist's greenhouse, the owner asked us to tell him why the leaves on the African violets that he was attempting to reflower were badly splotted. These plants were under a shelf and were about as badly discolored as any plants we have ever seen. As

the man told the tale, all of the plants in that section were watered by means of a hose spraying cold water at random. We explained that his plants should be watered by hand. If it was necessary to do so with a spray, it should at least be with room temperature water.

One lady criticized our use of plastic pots. She bragged that her plants in clay pots were doing beautifully. Another person commented about the small size of our 3-3 1/2" containers. She noted that hers were all in much larger pots.

After one workshop, we were approached by an individual who explained that the violets he owned were generally left on the sun porch of his Florida home. Suddenly all of them curled up and died. He wondered if we could tell him what caused that to happen. After questioning further, we discovered that a rare cold snap had lowered the temperature for two nights to 28°.

Another individual who complained that the plant died seemingly overnight was quizzed further. In that case she told us that she had just refilled the water reservoir and had simply dumped a quantity of fertilizer into the container. She went on to tell about the bright blue color that resulted. It was obvious that the quantity of fertilizer was too great for the plant to tolerate.

Regularly people who attend the workshops tell us that they have never had success in growing African violets. Those are perhaps the most difficult individuals to work with because having experienced failure, they are extremely reluctant to try again. More often than not, they are so insistent that African violets are impossible to raise that they show no indication of a willingness to try again. With them we simply smile and sadly shake our head.

In our last endeavor at a senior citizen workshop, there was one lady whose face seemed familiar. We asked her why and her explanation was that this was the third of our programs that she had attended and had learned something new each time. We do love people like that.

Probably the most interesting contact is the lady who telephoned to say that the violet she had purchased three weeks before was no longer in flower. She asked if she could bring it back and trade it in on another plant that was in flower. We tried to explain that African violets periodically go in and out of flower. We never had a chance to explain about the risks we would be taking introducing insects into our collection because she had indignantly banged the received down in our ear.

To all of those who brag about their successes, whether it be through banana peels, coffee grounds, or other ideas, we say "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." For those who have problems, we attempt to help if they ask. For those who angrily reject any help, we smile, shrug our shoulders, and gently ease ourselves away.



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

Cape Cod Violetry
28 Minot Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
508/548-2798

Selective Gardener Catalog
P.O. Box 78398
Nashville, TN 37207-8398

Tinari Greenhouses
2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215/947-0144

Innis Violets
8 Maddison Lane
Lynnfield, MA 01940
617/334-6679

Teas Nursery
P.O. Box 1603
Bellaire, TX 77402-1603
713/664-4400

Violets By Appointment
45 Third Street
W. Sayville, NY 11796
516/589-2724



VIOLETS IN RETIREMENT

by Joan Halford
South Africa

After fifty four years of married farm life, Colin and I made the momentous decision to retire to a large, three bedroom house in a retirement village, while leaving our family to keep the home fires burning and our business in their capable hands.

Our motive was top security - twenty four hours around the clock and a nursing staff at our beck and call. This was probably the most difficult decision we've ever had to make. Colin had lived on our farm for eighty one years and to me, it meant that twenty five years of growing and showing African violets would have to be very drastically curtailed. My intention was to close down two growing rooms, as the cost of electricity has become exorbitant. I have kept one outdoor greenhouse operative with heating supplied by a very thirsty diesel oil heater!

The Transvaal African Violet Society had scheduled their 1996 Annual Show for the end of October and our move was to take place twelve days later, while I was still President and Show Chairman. Here in South Africa, sales of starter plants at meetings and shows are almost nil. Members and public alike want twelve to twenty five inch plants in full bloom! For months before the show I was working ten hour days with one assistant getting one thousand plants and potting mix ready for the sales room. I was not going to be an exhibitor, or so I thought!

Six weeks before the show I was unexpectedly forced to exhibit, which sent me into a frenzy of repotting, grooming, washing, etc., of potential show plants. I worked with African violets by day and packed our house contents by night.

Show time arrived and I managed sixty six entries,

won fifty seven blue ribbons and twenty one top awards. I was overjoyed when I sold all these entries, plus nine hundred in the sales room, leaving me with very few plants to move to their new home. The new plant room was ready the day I moved in, but my plants were still on the farm.

Settling down to my new set up has had it's up's and down's. Space I have, but of course not nearly as much as I had before. The new violet room has shelving up to the roof, fluorescent lights and an air conditioner. It will take time and patience. I am still coming to terms with the fact that my collection of three hundred and fifty special varieties has had to be scaled down very drastically, as I intend closing down my greenhouse on the farm. Going out once a week is insufficient to keep up all that needs to be done, in spite of daily help.

My life has to become more simple. Looking at my diary, I now find there is time for ME. My life had become too complicated with requests for lectures, phone calls and "things" I simply had to do. I have learned to say "No!"

Now in semi - retirement, a few of my decisions come to mind. I intend to keep growing for as long as I am able. As a result of the move into a retirement village, I see no reason to quit - only reduce my collection. I want to expand my growing ability of *Streptocarpus* indigenous to Southern Africa. I want to continue to help and teach young enthusiasts, to enjoy my violet friendships but free up more time for myself.

My love of African violets is still too strong to ever be without them. I will now only grow what I can comfortably cope with and enjoy growing to perfection.

Attention Affiliates

AVSA is pleased to add two new teachers. They are:
Linda Owens, 1762 Stemwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228
and
Sharon Johnson, 6657 E Shadow Lake Dr., Lino Lakes, MN 55014.

CONSTRUCTING AND JUDGING A BUBBLE BOWL

by Cathy Cornibe • Santa Cruz, CA

After signing up to do my first Bubble Bowl, I read as many articles as I could find. Although the articles were helpful, they did not solve the problems that I encountered while I was practicing.

My biggest problems involved anchoring the materials down and moving them around as I made changes. After trying many unsuccessful methods — I discovered that “magnets” worked the best for me.

Magnets are so easy to use! Find a piece of rustproof metal to serve as a base. Use stick-em to anchor the base to the bottom of your Bubble Bowl. Glue magnets to the bottoms of all of your accessories, pin frogs, etc. with a clear silicone sealer. Allow the sealer to dry.

If this is your first Bubble Bowl, start practicing several weeks before the show. Rinse everything that you plan on using so that any dust or residue will not cloud your water. (I use distilled water.)

Test several greens to achieve the look you want and to learn which ones last the longest. Try various methods of securing blooms (pin frogs, wires, bloom tubes, shells, etc.) to find out which method works the best for you.

If you are using wire in your design, make sure that it will not rust and cloud the water. (Brass wire works well and bends easily.)

When you are ready to start working inside the Bubble Bowl, partially fill it with water and then lower your materials onto the base. The magnets let you move everything around as often as necessary.

Marbles, sand, gravel, or greens can be used to hide the base and magnets. If you want to camouflage the magnets even more, you can paint them to match to whatever they are glued. (Use paints that won't come off in water.)

After your practice Bubble Bowl is finished, stand back and look at it objectively and simplify it if it looks too cluttered. “Less is better.”

To find out how your Bubble Bowl will be judged, get a copy of *AVSA's Handbook For African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*. Since Bubble Bowls are underwater flower arrangements, read the section on **Interpretive Flower Arrangements**.

The scale of points that the judges use to judge a Bubble Bowl is listed below.

AVSA'S SCALE OF POINTS FOR INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

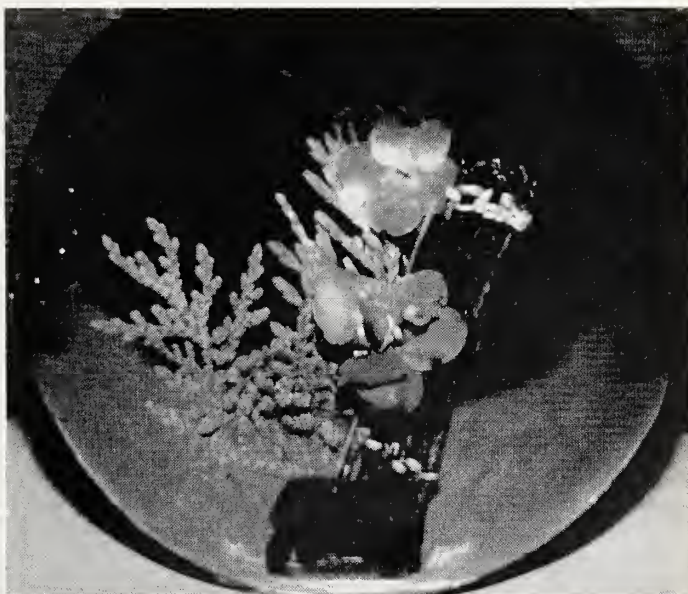
Design	40 points
Interpretation of schedule	15 points
Distinction and originality	15 points
Suitability of materials	10 points
Relationship of materials	10 points
Condition of materials	<u>10 points</u>
	100 points

Keep in mind that judges can deduct points for things like:

- mechanics that show loose or floating materials
- materials that touch the top of the Bubble Bowl
- no line
- cloudy water
- a dirty or scratched container
- translucent foliage or blossoms
- too many accessories
- an accessory that is too big
- the color of an accessory is too distracting
- the blossoms are not the highlight of the design

Enter a Bubble Bowl in your next show!

Reprinted from the California Council News, joint publication of the Northern and Southern CA AV Councils



Showcase

'Lela Marie'

Best Standard

from Best AVSA Standard Collection

1997 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: Phyllis King

Hybridized by: I. Lineberg

Standard

Photo Credit: Gus Francisco





'Irish Sweeps'

From the AVS of Canada

1997 National Show

*Exhibited by: **Bruno Curcuruto***

*Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky***

Curls and Frills

by Ruth Coulson
Australia

How many of your favorite African violet plants have ruffled foliage? Not many, I dare say.

As time goes on, in our quest to grow perfect show plants, we seem to concentrate more and more upon those which have the beautifully flat leaf form that grows so evenly and shapes so well. This means that we grow fewer and fewer African violets that have different foliage types.

Over the years there have been African violets with various types of foliage - longifolia, girl, spooned, bustle, clackamus, oak-leaf, holly, leathernneck, and so on. These have to a larger extent disappeared (in many cases I believe deservedly), but I suspect that we lose something from the riches of African violets when these variations go out of cultivation. Are the ruffled varieties also to disappear from our collections?

Perhaps our perspectives have changed. I think that twenty or thirty years ago, even ten years ago, hobby growers tended to judge a plant by the beauty of its flowers first and then by the overall impression of the plant. There was not so much showing done, and so the emphasis was not so much on making a good show plant. This gave growers greater freedom to chose plants on their immediate appeal rather than on preconceived ideas of a show variety. When new colors and forms of flowers, as well as new combinations, were being introduced as fast as the plants on which they appeared, they were embraced as quickly as they came on the market. They were not so easily downgraded because their foliage was not flat and smoothly produced.

Remember that the show rules say a plant must lose points if its petioles show (almost impossible to avoid with a violet with heavily ruffled foliage), but how many of us would really object to seeing the petioles if we had not learned this so well? I suppose the question is really "does the plant appeal to you?" rather than "Will this make a good show entry?" I am suggesting that you might like to grow a few of these vagrants with ruffles and curls in their leaves just for their own unique appeal.

Recently I have had occasion to look over some of the magazines from the 1960s and 1970s. In these they regularly had pages of photographs of praised new introductions. The difference between those and the new introductions of the 1990s seems to be that often over half

of them had ruffled foliage. I mean really ruffled, something like curly-leafed parsley, not merely lightly fluted. Most of these plants from the early years have moved into obscurity, but then so have their flatter fellows.

And yet there have been some ruffled leaf African violets that were landmarks in the history of our plants. **Firebird** was one such. It was an early variety with fairly small single fuchsia-red flowers that had a wide white ruffled edge. It was an unusual looking flower at the time and most early hobby growers would have had it at one time. Its foliage was very curly and unruly, and so was that of the later improved variety **Garnet Elf**. Somehow it did not matter so much then as it does now. There was also **Serenity**. This one had white flowers with a dark blue edge. The color combination was new, the plant looked very striking and it was eagerly awaited by growers. Its leaves were strongly ruffled but it was popular anyway and stayed in our collections for a good many years.

I seem to have grown a good many ruffled varieties over the years. I remember being extremely fond of **Blue Reverie**, which had shaded blue flowers. I can also remember **Alluring** which I purchased for its name but which turned out to have lavender flowers on extremely ruffled foliage with a cream center variegation. I know I thought it great at the time although it doesn't sound so good to me now. **Patricia Valerie** was one which grew in a difficult manner. Its ruffled girl leaves were very heavy and, on my plant at least, tended to grow upright. The trouble with this was that they quite hid the dark purple flowers.

Two favorites I had for a long time were **Amazing Grace** and **Marie Knoblock**. The former was another purchase by name appeal (who could resist?) and I loved its pale pink flowers and ruffled foliage. I also thought it grew fairly well, and was not too unruly despite the ruffled foliage. I had a show quality plant of it for some years. **Marie Knoblock** had fuchsia-colored flowers and lightly ruffled variegated foliage. I thought it a great show plant fifteen years ago, but when I tried growing it again a few years ago I found it did not flower heavily enough. Standards do change.

I still grow some ruffled types. **Ballet Fairy Queen** is
continued on page 31

FANTASTIC IDEAS!!

by Pat Vinciguerra • Upland, CA

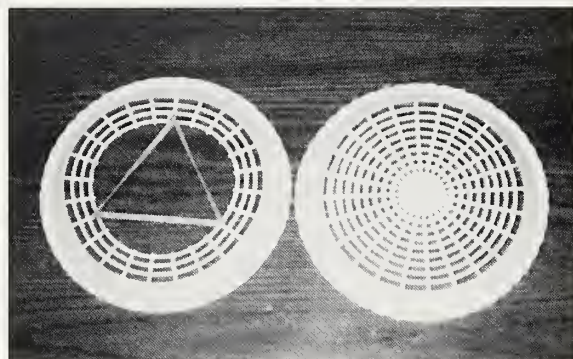
Estelle Orsini is a very clever lady, and Pomona Valley A.V.S. is proud to have her as a member. She has come up with two ideas we can all benefit from.

Estelle designed a "Leaf Support Ring", and fashioned it out of a plastic paper plate holder. The plastic plate has small rectangular holes, which allows air for circulation.

She cuts out the size she needs to fit her pots, by cutting on the circles with a wire cutter. Then makes one snip at three equal distances above the row she has cut out to hold a rubber band. And you have an instant "Leaf Support Ring"!

The plastic plates are 9 inches and can be cut to fit up to a 6 inch pot. They can be used right side up or upside down. They are inexpensive and easily found with other picnic supplies at the stores. They can be washed and re-used. For use with a heavier rubber band, the bands can be attached with a twist-tie.

A problem solver, Estelle came up with another handy



idea. She grows her plants with wicks and reservoirs, and had a problem trying to put the wick into the small hole in the reservoirs. Estelle quickly solved this problem by tying a small round plastic bead with a hole in the center to the end of the wick, which gives it weight and makes the job much easier. So, thanks, Estelle and keep the great ideas coming!



Last chance to get your award in for the 1998 Sacramento Convention. All awards received by February 15, 1998 will be listed in the Convention Souvenir Book. All awards received after March 1, 1998 will be held over for the 1999 Houston, TX Convention.

Please make your checks payable to:
AVSA CONVENTION FUND

Mail To: **Mrs. Linda L. Golubski**
AVSA Awards Chairman
1416 N. W. A Street
Blue Springs, MO 64105
(816) 229-2051 CST

(Curls and Frills continued from page 30)

one. Its flowers are white with a strongly ruffled crimson edge and its leaves have a similar amount of ruffle. It is a very pretty plant and does produce a lot of flower. **Reflection** is another. It has white flowers with a medium-blue edge and flowers rather well for me.

So, you see, some of these plants do have show potential and they certainly do have the potential to bring variety into your collection of African violets.

I am not sure what is the best way to go about growing the ruffled varieties. I have tried stronger light, less light, more and less fertilizing, smaller and larger pots, and so on.

The plants seem to be pretty much individuals and you will need to try different things in order to find what works best for a particular variety.

I have come to only two conclusions. One is that the light needs to be fairly close for some varieties (certainly **Amazing Grace**). If the plant is too far away from the light it will grow far too open to be really attractive. The other is that it seems to take longer to grow a good ruffled plant than it does a flat-leaved one.

Reprinted from The African Violet, publication of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.

GROWING FOR THE GOLD

by Rita Hilton

Presentation from the AVSA Atlanta Convention

Because growing and showing African violets should be enjoyed, I don't want this hobby to be a burden. Therefore, I skip some of the steps that others take, according to the "how to do it" articles I've read and talks I've heard. Basically, I am an unstructured, relaxed grower. If a system is too complicated, it takes the pleasure out of the system. Growing should be fun.

The first African violets I bought were the largest plants on a show sales table. Then I began buying the small, starter plants from commercial growers. NOW, I order leaves and grow my own starter plants – and they are instantly acclimated to my growing conditions. Leaves are ordered from several commercial growers and different hybridizers because I don't want people to say, "Oh, that plant is one of Munk's (or some other well-known hybridizer) – It must be Rita Hilton's."

PROPAGATING

The first time I had some African violet leaves to put down, builder's sand was used, but they came up so slowly that I had almost lost interest in them by the time the small plantlets made their appearance. The rooting mix now used is equal parts perlite and vermiculite, 1/4 part soil, and a little horticultural charcoal, with the mixture dampened with Superthrive water. Each pot gets a wick, curved around in the pot to give the rooting mix extra moisture. This gives me excellent results – if 100 leaves are put down, I probably get baby plants from 99 of them. I plant by the moon signs, and have found that putting leaves down during the fruitful times works the best. I will repot larger plants during the semi-fruitful signs, but when leaves are to be put down, they will be held in water, waiting for the "moon to be right". Just before putting the leaves down in my rooting mix, the stems are re-cut. The baby plants usually are seen in six to eight weeks. I let them grow for about two to three months, until they are good-sized, and quite sturdy before taking them from the mother leaf

POTTING UP

When the plantlets are ready to separate from the mother leaf and be potted up, they go into my regular soil mix which is three quarts each of Pro-Mix and Volkmann

Soil, four quarts of perlite, one quart of vermiculite, and 1 1/2 cups of horticultural charcoal. A few hours before I am going to work with the plants, I put the amount of soil needed into a plastic bag, add Disyston systemic granules to the soil and dampen the soil with hot water. A wick goes through the drainage hole, then across the bottom of each 3" pot before the soil is added. Most people remove the baby leaves at this time, but I leave them on because I think it helps the plant with its photosynthesis to have those leaves for a while longer. After about 2-3 weeks when the plant has gotten established in its new home, the baby leaves will be removed. Each pot goes onto its own reservoir. At first, the plants just seem to sit there doing nothing, but they are busy making roots. Once a plant starts to grow, it really takes off.

In another three to four months, the plants are ready to move up to 4 1/2" pots. At this point, I use the "pot in a pot" system for my repotting, taking the size pot I am going to move the pot into, placing a wick through one of the drainage holes, add some soil, then use a clean pot the size the plant is currently growing in to make a mold, and filling in around the pot with the fresh soil. When the inner, smaller pot is removed, there is the perfect place to set the plant. If a plant gets too large for that size pot, it will be moved to a 5" pot, but seldom is a larger size than that used. Most plants in a pot larger than 3" diameter get set into Volkmann leaf trainer pots to encourage proper, shapely growth. When they need a larger training ring, I place one of the Elisa rings on top of the Volkmann leaf trainer pot.

GETTING READY FOR SHOW

If a plant seems to be forming a tight center, I cut a 4" circle out of cardboard, place it in the center of the plant for a few days, then take it off a few days, then repeat, being sure to let the plant get some light into its center every so often. If a plant is growing upward, an Elisa ring is placed on top of the plant to sort of weight it down and encourage a better growth habit. So, some plants may have rings under their foliage and on top of it, too.

My plants are disbudded, religiously. Often they are not allowed to bloom at all, until time to get them ready for a

AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE

"Discover California"

APRIL, 1998

Horticulture Division – Amateur

SECTION I - COLLECTIONS

Class

1. AVSA Collection of three different registered standard varieties all of the same type (three single crown or three trailers) or three different species, regardless of type.

1a. AVSA Collection of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures, or three semiminature trailers).

2. Holtkamp Memorial Collection of three registered Optimara® and/or Rhapsodie® plants, all of the same type: standard, miniature, or semiminature.

SECTION II - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE

BLOSSOM, GREEN FOLIAGE

3. Dark blue and purple
4. Light to medium blue
5. Light to medium pink
6. Dark pink, rose, and coral
7. Red, wine, fuchsia, and plum
8. Lavender, mauve, orchid, white, cream, and blush
9. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera (all shades of blue and purple)
10. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera (all shades of pink, red, and yellow)
11. Fantasy
12. All edged

SECTION III - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE

BLOSSOM, VARIEGATED FOLIAGE

13. Blue, purple, lavender, and orchid
14. Pink, red, fuchsia, coral, and wine
15. White, cream, and blush
16. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera
17. Fantasy and all edged

SECTION IV - MINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

18. Purple and all shades of blue
19. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia
20. Orchid, lavender, white, cream, and blush
21. Two-tone, multicolor, chimera, and all edged
22. Fantasy
23. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
24. Pink, coral, red, fuchsia, variegated foliage
25. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
26. Two-tone, multicolor, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage
27. Fantasy, variegated foliage

SECTION V - SEMIMINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

28. Purple and all shades of blue

29. Pink and coral
30. Red and fuchsia
31. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush
32. All edged
33. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera
34. Fantasy
35. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
36. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
37. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
38. Two-tone multicolor, and chimera, variegated foliage
39. All edged, variegated foliage
40. Fantasy, variegated foliage

SECTION VI - TRAILERS, SPECIES AND VINTAGE

VIOLETS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, ANY FOLIAGE

41. Standard trailers
42. Miniature trailers
43. Semiminature trailers
44. Saintpaulia species and natural hybrids
45. Vintage Violets (must be at least 25 years old)
- 45a. Bustle foliage and wasp blossoms

SECTION VII - NEW CULTIVARS

46. Seedlings
47. Sports or mutants

SECTION VIII - AFRICAN VIOLET PLANTS IN UNUSUAL CONTAINER

48. One African violet plant, either standard, miniature or semiminature in container
49. One African violet trailer in container

SECTION IX - GESNERIADS OTHER THAN AFRICAN VIOLETS

50. Miniatures (may be displayed in regular pots or growing in clear container, cover permitted)
51. Tuberous-rooted
52. Scaly-rhizomed
53. Fibrous-rooted
54. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage

DESIGN DIVISION

SECTION X - INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Each entry is a design using fresh cut African violet blossoms. Fresh cut, dried, treated, painted and colored plant material, and any man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live creatures, and the American and national flags are not permitted. Backboards and draping of niches are permitted, as are accessories, unless restricted by the particular class.

55. **"Capitol Park"** - A beautiful setting for the California State Capitol building with its signature golden dome. There is a colorful array of camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons, roses and bedding plants to enjoy year-round among the towering old trees. Let us enjoy this setting through your interpretive flower arrangement. To be displayed in a niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

56. **"Old Town"** - From Front Street in Old Sacramento you can view the famous Delta King paddle wheel boat, its last voyage over, moored on the Sacramento River, or you can view the Tower Bridge, a tall steel truss draw bridge over the river. Express your view in an interpretive flower arrangement. Designer's choice. Niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

57. **"Camellia City"** - Sacramento is also known as the Camellia Capital of the World for the city's more than one million camellia bushes. An interpretive flower arrangement using shades of pink African violet blossoms, and you may incorporate camellia foliage. To be shown in a niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

58. **"The Cathedral"** - The 217 foot tower of the Cathedral in Sacramento was built in 1889, its prominent architectural design comes from 19th century Paris and its stained glass is from Austria. Show us a devotional type interpretive flower arrangement. Niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

59. **"Fishing for Gold"** - There really is gold among the rocks in the American River. Try your hand at an underwater flower arrangement not to exceed 18" H x 12" W x 12" D to be displayed at eye level - no niche. This class is limited to eight entries.

60. **"Choo Choo"** - A small black and white interpretive flower arrangement, using any color African violet blossoms, depicting the famous California State Railroad Museum, the largest interpretive railroad museum in North America. A niche 8" H x 6" W x 4" D is provided. This class is limited to ten entries.

61. **"Cow Town"** - An endearing term used for small town Sacramento located in the early day cattle country. The term still exists today. Regardless of growth and conditions, Sacramento will always keep its small town atmosphere. A small homespun type interpretive flower arrangement to be shown in an 8" H x 6" W x 4" D niche. This class is limited to eight entries.

62. **"Balloon Adventures"** - A kinetic flower design. Portray, with a mobile, your exciting flight along with other flights, in a colorful hot air balloon, over Folsom Lake, the American River Canyon and some of the Gold Country in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. To be displayed in a niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

SECTION XI. - INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS

All entries in this section are to be designs using one or more blooming African violet plants, removed from their pots, with the rootball encased in plastic or some other material. Fresh cut, dried, treated, painted, and colored plant materials, and any man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live creatures and the American or national flags are not permitted. Accessories, backdrops and/or draping are permitted, unless restricted by the particular class.

63. **"Jazz Jubilee"** - Sacramento is host to a big-time "Jazz Jubilee" each year. It is so large that parts of it are held in different locations. Select your instrument and/or music and come join the band.

Include something musical in your interpretive plant arrangement. Niche is 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

64. **"River City"** - The American and Sacramento Rivers merge and "A River Runs Through It." Think of early Sacramento (known as River City), Victorian homes along the unpaved streets and all that is nostalgic. Create a Victorian plant arrangement to be displayed in a niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

65. **"Strike it Rich at Coloma"** - Site of Sutter's Mill and the Discovery of Gold in California. Gold fever didn't really strike until Sam Brannan, an enterprising merchant from Sutter's Fort, collected nuggets at the discovery site, stuffed them into a bottle and rode through the streets of San Francisco shouting: "Gold, Gold on the American River!" San Francisco was nearly deserted within a week as people headed for the gold mines. An interpretive plant arrangement using gold in some manner. Niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

66. **"Stagecoach Trail"** - Take a step back in time to the stagecoach era. Sturdy horse-drawn carriages with wooden spoke wheels traveled the trails transporting thousands of miners and their gold. Depict your vision with a small interpretive plant arrangement not to exceed 10" in any direction. To be displayed on a rustic wooden shelf - no niche. This class is limited to eight entries.

SECTION XII - CONTAINER GARDENS

Miniature gardens with one or more blooming African violet plants and other growing plants. All plants must be planted in the container. No cut plant materials, artificial plant materials, live creatures and the American or national flags are permitted. Accessories are optional. Unlimited entries but only one entry per class by exhibitor.

67. **"The Rock"** - Alcatraz for one. A rocky island in the San Francisco Bay. A military prison 1859-1933 and a federal prison until 1963. There being no soil for the gardens on the island, all the soil was brought from another island then hand carried, put in place and planted by the prisoners. The island has long been known as "the Rock" and is now a tourist attraction. A natural garden. Use any type of natural rock container for your plantings. Not to exceed 20" in any direction.

68. **"Experience Yosemite Valley"** - Beautiful trees, lush green meadows, towering granite and oh yes, waterfalls! Depict a portion or all of this scene in a terrarium not to exceed 30" in any direction. Viewed from the front. Cover required.

69. **"Little Gems"** - A petite terrarium, any shape, using tiny African violets and other plants. To be viewed from the front. Your interpretation, not to exceed 12" in any direction. Cover required.

70. **"Wonders of Emerald Bay on Lake Tahoe"** - Miles of the world's most rugged shoreline and beautiful trees. Fannette Island, with its famous Tea House, in the bay and Vikingsholm Castle, considered the finest example of Scandinavian architecture in the United States, on the shore. Depict any part of this scene in a *shallow* dish garden not to exceed 20" in any direction. To be viewed from the front.

71. **"Oriental Influence"** - No where in the Western World is the Oriental influence more apparent than in California. A dish garden, on a smaller scale, with an Oriental flavor. To be viewed from the front in a *shallow* container. Not to exceed 10" in any direction.

72. **"Discover California"** - A bottle garden depicting your favorite site in California, from the mountains to the sea. A planting in a transparent container with an opening too small for the hand to enter. Not to exceed 36" in any direction. Opening need not be covered.

Each exhibit in the design division shall be accompanied by a 3" x 5" card which gives the names of the African violet varieties used, and if known, the names of other plant materials used.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

SECTION XIII – EDUCATION EXHIBIT

73. Education exhibit (by invitation only)

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

SECTION XIV – SPECIMEN PLANTS

A. Collections

74. AVSA Collections

a. Standard Plants

b. Miniatures and Semiminiatures

75. Holtkamp Memorial Collections

B. New Cultivars (from seed or mutation)

76. Standard African Violets

77. Miniature African Violets

78. Semiminiature African Violets

79. African Violet Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

C. Specimen African Violets

80. Standard, plain green foliage

81. Standard, variegated foliage

82. Miniatures, plain foliage

83. Miniatures, variegated foliage

84. Semiminiatures, plain foliage

85. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage

86. Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

87. Saintpaulia species

D. Gesneriads

88. Gesneriads (other than African violets)

SECTION XV – SPECIMEN PLANTS

89. Display tables

HORTICULTURE DIVISION Amateur - Rules and Regulations

1. Only amateur AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, April 22, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY and on Thursday, April 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of the person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag.

3. Only clean, healthy plants which have been in the possession

of the exhibitor for at least three months will be accepted.

4. Plants must be correctly named or they will be subject to correction by the classification committee.

5. Double potting, flared-top pots, supports, and collars will not be accepted. All pots must be non-decorative white. DO NOT COVER POTS IN FOIL. Self-watering pots, such as Moist-Rite and Oyama, etc. may be entered in colors such as white, black, green, or any neutral tone. All other plants must be slip potted into pots in colors such as white, green or any neutral tone. Slip potting means dropping the pot containing the plant into a clean pot of the same or just a fraction larger sized pot. It is recommended that plastic be placed in the bottom of the outer pot to prevent leakage onto the table covering. This must be worked out prior to entry. Exception: trailers, trailing species, trailing gesneriads, and gesneriads in protective containers may be exhibited in the containers in which they are growing.

6. An exhibitor may enter only one plant of each variety in classes 3 through 45.

7. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 1, 2, 44, 45, 48 and 49 as those in classes 3 through 45.

8. All plants in classes 1 through 49 must be single-crown plants except trailers and some species, which may be multiple-crown. S. Amazon velutina, S. Amazon grotei, S. Sigi Falls and S. House of Amani will be accepted in Class 44.

9. Any number of new cultivars may be entered provided they have been originated by the exhibitor from hybridization, from purchased seed, or from mutation; or the released rights in writing from the hybridizer have been given to the exhibitor for purchased seedlings. New cultivars may be entered by number or name, and the entry tag must indicate whether it is a new cultivar from seed or mutation. A sport (mutant) may be exhibited as a "Sport of _____." If a name has been given to the sport, the name in parenthesis may follow such as, "Sport of 'Valencia' ('Dale's Dream')." New cultivars must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show.

10. Gesneriads (other than African violets) may be exhibited in protective containers, and natural-colored mulch may be used on the soil surface.

11. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges will be final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

12. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive special awards.

13. Any African violet entered in an AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 1a, receiving a blue ribbon, will be eligible for other awards.

14. All African violets entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 2, must be AVSA registered Optimara® and/or Rhapsodie® plants and must be different plants of the same type.

15. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each class; AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 1a, Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 2.

16. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

17. Entries must be checked out on Saturday night, April 25. Instructions on check out will be given at the convention.

DESIGN DIVISION

Rules and Regulations

1. Both amateur and commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, April 22, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY. Entries will be accepted on Thursday, April 23, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. MEMBERS ON TOUR ONLY may enter on Thursday, April 23, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Design entry books will be closed on Thursday, April 23, at 9:00 p.m. Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class, but is limited to a total of six entries in classes 55-66 (Interpretive Flower and Interpretive Plant Arrangements) and a total of six entries in classes 67-72 (Container Gardens).

Advance written reservations are required for all design classes. Anyone desiring to enter designs must send a reservation blank (or copy) from this show schedule by regular mail only, postmarked no earlier than January 1, 1998, nor later than March 25, 1998, to: Doris Weaver, 3940 North Alvarado, Stockton, CA 95204-2303. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Persons who wish to cancel confirmed reservations may write or call (209) 465-2214.

All entries must be the creations of the exhibitors, and must be placed by the exhibitors.

Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs on Thursday, April 23, until 10:00 p.m., and on Friday, April 24, from 6:00 to 8:00 a.m. All exhibitors and their materials must be out of the show room by 8:30 a.m. April 24.

All design exhibits must be checked out and removed from the show room Saturday night, April 25. Instructions on check out will be provided at the convention.

3. Any type of plant material (except artificial), man-made materials, bases, accessories, backboards, and draping may be used in all interpretive flower and plant arrangements, unless restricted by the particular class. Accessories are permitted in all container garden classes; but, cut plant materials, underlayments, bases, backboards, and draping are prohibited. Mirror-sided terrariums are permitted. The American flag, national flags, regional flags (or facsimiles of any flag) and live or dead creatures may not be used in any exhibit.

4. No part of a design may touch or extend beyond the confines of the niche or space limitations.

5. All exhibits must have a white 3" x 5" card listing the African violet varieties and other plant materials (if known) used. A written subtitle may also be included on the cards.

6. Exhibits will be merit judged by qualified AVSA Judges. Decisions of the judges will be final, unless in conflict with AVSA rules or the rules of this schedule.

7. Only blue ribbon exhibits will be eligible to receive special awards.

8. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Rules and Regulations

1. Only commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter either the Specimen Plant

Section or the Display Table Section, but not both. They may also enter the Design Division.

2. For dates and times for entering exhibits, please refer to rule 2 under HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR.

3. All plants must be correctly named, and all African violets must be single crown plants, except trailers, some species, and trailing gesneriads.

4. In the Specimen Plant Section, exhibitors may enter any number of plants in each class, but only one plant of the same variety in the same class. Exhibitors may enter plants of the same variety in the AVSA Collections, class 74, and Holtkamp Memorial Collection, class 75, as are entered in the other classes. Exhibitors may enter one collection in each collection class. Plants entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection class must be AVSA registered Optimara®/Rhapsodie® plants. AVSA collections rules are the same as they are for amateurs.

5. Only plants labeled "New Cultivar" in either Specimen Plant Section or Display Table Section will be considered for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards.

6. Entries for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards may be seedlings (plants originally from seed), sports, or mutants originated by the exhibitor, or the right and ownership to them released by the hybridizer, and must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show. Each entry must be labeled "New Cultivar".

7. A 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table Section.

8. Each display table shall contain 15 plants (no merchandise). Three, all of the same type, miniatures or semiminiatures, or miniature or semiminature trailers shall count as a specimen plant and shall be judged as one unit. The display must be predominantly (at least 75%) African violets. Other gesneriads may be included in the 15 plants and will be judged.

9. Any plant, up to a maximum of 15 plants, on a display table may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards, either standard, miniature, semiminature and all types of trailers, either standard, miniature, or semiminature.

10. No other material, such as ivy, may be used on a display table.

11. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.

12. Any shape and type of pot for specimen plants will be permitted, except flared top pots. Supports and collars will not be permitted. Pots in the specimen plant section must be slip potted into clean, non-decorative pots in colors such as white, green, or any neutral tone. The bottom of the pot containing the plant must be completely covered with plastic or aluminum foil. The pot is then inserted into a pot of the same size or shape. The inside pot may be of any color and may extend above the rim of the outside pot. Exceptions to slip potting are self contained reservoirs (i.e., Oyama, Moist Rite, etc.) in colors such as white, green, black, or any neutral tone. Pots in the Display Table Section do not have to be covered and may be elevated and tilted with individual pot holders.

13. Prior to judging, signs, cards, or codes identifying the exhibitor may not be displayed on the display tables.

14. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges is final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

15. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.

16. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

17. Commercial Silver Trophies will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors of the Display Tables receiving the first, second, and third highest number of points. An Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the fourth highest number of

points.

18. A Point-Score Sheet shall be given each Display Table exhibitor to show how trophies are awarded.

19. To reserve a display table or for further information, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068. Phone (816) 781-2160, after 6:00 p.m.

MEAL FUNCTION SEATING

Reservations received on or
before March 19, 1998
will receive table assignments.

**All reservations received
after that date will have
unreserved seating at meal functions.**

Special meal requests must
be made to the AVSA Office
at time of registration.

Requests made directly to
the hotel will not be honored

WANTED! Slides for Social Hour

Please share your slides of our 51st St. Pete Beach Convention. They will be shown at the Thursday night social hour. Include any information about the slide (names, state, etc.).

Slides sent in from the 1997 St. Pete Convention will be donated to the AVSA library, unless you request them to be returned.

Please send your slides by March 18, 1998 to:

**Nancy G. Hayes
9 Cobblestone Rd.
Bloomfield, CT 06002**

ATTENTION: Hybridizers WANTED:

Photo slides of New Introductions for the Saturday Luncheon at the 1998 Convention in Sacramento, California. This year's narrator will be Kent Stork. This is an excellent way for seasoned and beginning hybridizers to introduce their new HYBRIDS.

Please send two (2) slides of each new plant; one viewing the plant and the other a close-up of the blossom. Please include with your slides a written description of each slide, marked with a corresponding number for clarification. Send your slides before March 19, 1998, to:

**Jackie Jones
607 14th Ave. Box 34
Durant, IA 52747**

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

1998 Tours – Sacramento, CA

Tour Number #1

Coloma/Gold Panning/Hangtown

Monday, April 20, 1998

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Today we follow the trail of the original 49ers to the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park at Coloma. After being instructed in the art of gold panning, you can try your luck in the American River. This is where it all started and this major event caused the biggest gold stampede in California history. Fathers left their families and soldiers deserted their posts to grab the purportedly easy money to be found along the river's banks.

Carriage rides are not included in the tour package but are available for \$1.00 per person. Your leisurely ride will take you through the entire Marshall Gold Discovery Park and lasts about twenty (20) minutes. What better way to enjoy a California spring day?

At 12:30, we'll enjoy a cookout of roast beef, BBQ beans, peas and carrots in mushroom sauce, sourdough bread, butter and lemonade.

After lunch we are off to Hangtown. Hangtown got an early start, thanks to its proximity to the site of the original gold discovery. The original name of the camp was Dry Diggins, but after becoming the first Gold Rush community to use lynching as a form of justice, the camp became Hangtown. In 1954 the town's name was changed to Placerville. Many famous people got their start in Placerville. Railroad magnate Mark Hopkins sold vegetables; Phillip Armour, of meat packing fame, had a butcher shop here; John Studebaker, who later graduated to automobiles, made wheelbarrows here, and Collis P. Huntington, who later became a railroad tycoon, operated a store here.

Cost: \$30.00



Tour Number #2

South Lake Tahoe/ Casino

Monday, April 20, 1998

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Just a short distance from Sacramento and the Radisson Hotel, the terrain changes rapidly from foothills to forested mountain with glorious vistas of the magnificent Sierras. Your bus ride will take you over Echo Summit at the 7,832-foot elevation and descend to the 6,390-foot elevation of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The seventy-two (72) miles of shoreline provide access to the incredibly clear blue lake. In all directions the vistas are breathtaking. (Though it just might be the elevation that has you enthralled.)

At South Lake Tahoe we start at Harvey's Casino where you will receive \$5.00 in script to start your gambling spree.

Lunch is on your own and the price will be easy on the pocketbook. All the casinos offer great meals for next to nothing (however they would rather you gamble and forgo eating).

Note: Even if you don't gamble, this trip is worth taking ... shop if you like or just sit in the sun and enjoy the view. A warm wrap is suggested as it might turn cool. April still brings snow and cool, cool nights.

Cost: \$28.00



Tour Number #3

Sacramento City Tour/ Old Town

April 21, 1998

8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This morning we take a bus ride through Sacramento with its wide streets and many trees ... a must on



anyone's list. You will enjoy views of the Capital Building, Governors Mansion, Stanford Mansion and Sutter's Fort.

Old Sacramento, a registered national landmark and state historic park, boasts the largest concentration of historic buildings in California. It is perched on the banks of the Sacramento River, gateway to the Pacific Ocean.

The districts one hundred (100) restored building's house unique shops, award-winning restaurants and a number of museums. A public market was opened in 1996 and houses an old-fashioned Italian delicatessen, a spice shop, a dairy and egg vendor and many, many others.

The California State Railroad Museum is the showpiece of Old Town with its twenty-one (21) meticulously restored locomotives and cars. It is open to the public with an entrance fee of \$6.00 (not included in the tour package).

Note: There is a lot to do here for anyone. I'm sure you will not have enough time to spend here on this tour.

Cost \$15.00

Tour Number #4

California Highway Patrol/Governor's Mansion

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

At the "California Highway Patrol Academy" officers are trained and retrained. It's not easy in California to become a highway patrol officer. Besides classroom studies and martial arts, a college degree plus twenty-seven weeks (27) of intensive training are required to become a California Highway Patrol Officer. They also learn to handle one of the fastest pursuit cars made for police work.

Demonstrations will be provided for our group. If you want a private demo, exceed the posted speed limit for a few miles and you will personally meet one of the most courteous ticket givers. (Note: not included in the tour package ... you are on your own here.)

Lunch will be provided by the academy.

After lunch, it's off to the Governor's Mansion. The Mansion housed the California Governor from 1903 to 1967, thirteen in all. In 1968 Ronald Reagan became Governor and refused to live in such a drafty old house. Reagan asked for and got donations to build a more modern structure. Unfortunately his term expired before it was completed. The next Governor was Jerry Brown who refused to live in such a large home. The mansion was sold and now no one lives in either of the Governors Mansions. It could only happen in California.

Cost: \$38.00



Tour Number #5

Riverboat Dinner Cruise

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Sacramento has long been known as the "River City" because of the 1,000 navigable miles of waterways that flow through the area. Two major rivers, the Sacramento and the American, converge here making the city a vital inland port. Ocean-going vessels use these waterways as their gateway to the Pacific Ocean.

The "Spirit of Sacramento" was built in 1942, and spent most of her career on the Sacramento River. First as a "snag" removal vessel, working the river to clear debris, then owned by John Wayne and featured in his movie "Blood Alley". After stardom she returned to the Sacramento River as a dinner cruise boat.

A buffet dinner on the river is best enjoyed as evening turns to night.



The lights of the city twinkle like little stars. You soon see why the name "River City" is so appropriate. Our cruise departs at 7:15 p.m. and returns at 10:15 p.m. The buffet dinner comes highly recommended, as does the spectacular scenery. This time of year is very mild, but a light jacket or sweater would be appropriate.

Relive the romance aboard an historic paddlewheel as we dine amid Victorian elegance and enjoy cruising the Sacramento River. Sacramento from the water is a sight you won't soon forget.

Cost: \$50.00

Tour Number #6

Davis Arboretum/Outlet Stores/Jelly Bean Factory

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

8:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Our trip today takes us westward on Interstate 80. They say it begins at the Golden Gate and ends in New York, or is it the other way around?

The Davis Arboretum of the University of California was established in 1936 and occupies 125 acres on the banks of ancient Putah Creek. The Arboretum plantings include hundreds of species of trees and woody plants adapted to the local Mediterranean climate of California, including a large collection of California native plants. Our guide will walk us through much of California's past and present history as told by the plants and trees.

The Botanical Conservatory was founded in 1959 and serves the university community and beyond as an educational facility. It houses over 2500 plant species in more than 150 families, including examples from most of the world's climatic regions. (I have been told that the greenhouse is stocking up on a lot of gesneriads just for our visit.)

Lunch on your own in the huge Factory Outlet complex in Vacaville located right on Interstate 80.

After lunch, and some shopping, it's on to the Jelly Belly factory. Not until Ronald Reagan became President did Jelly Belly come into its own. President Reagan only ate Jelly Bellies! You will tour this now famous factory and sample them all, some 50 or more flavors. (If I were you, I'd leave the green ones alone, or is it the greenish yellow with a brown spot?)

Cost: \$22.00

Tour Number #7

Empire Gold Mine/ Nevada City

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

8:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Empire Mine State Historic Park in Grass Valley, is the site of the oldest, richest, gold mine in California. From the time in 1850 when George Roberts discovered gold in a quartz outcropping, which became the ophir vein, until the mine's closure in 1956, an estimated 5,800,000 ounces of gold were extracted from 367 miles of underground passages.

As word spread throughout the world, that hard rock gold had been found in California, miners from the tin and copper mines of Cornwall, England flocked to the area to share their wealth of experience and expertise in hard rock mining techniques. The Cornish provided the bulk of the labor force from the late 1870's until 1956. During that time the Empire Mine thrived under two separate leaderships.

A knowledgeable guide will lead you through the history of the mines, and you may actually enter one shaft and can take pictures seated on one of the cars that took the miners down the incline to a depth of 11,007 feet.

Don't miss the tour of the gorgeous mansion and formal gardens on the mine grounds... a must see.

Our next stop is Nevada City (Queen City of the Northern Mines). Nevada City is great for its Victorian-style storefronts, great shopping, good art galleries and many excellent restaurants, all in a small area with easy



walking. Many "lunch on your own sites". The entire downtown district is a national historic landmark. This town of about 2,800 residents is among the most interesting of those towns born in the California Gold Rush. It has mostly easy, level or gentle slopping walking and the elevation is not problematic.

Cost: \$32.00

Tour Number #8

Coloma/Gold Panning/Hangtown

Thursday, April 22, 1998

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This tour repeats tour number one (1).

Tour Number #9

Napa Valley/Calistoga Geysers/Petrified Forest/Wine Tasting

Thursday, April 23, 1998

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Our first stop will be the Petrified Forest. Here you step back in time, over 3 million years, to walk the trail of the petrified redwood giants. The Petrified Forest is seven miles southwest of Mount Saint Helens, which erupted in a volcanic blast millions of years ago to create the Petrified Forest. Mount Saint Helens has been quiet for many years; however, if it erupts while you are visiting the forest, your tour price will be cheerfully refunded.

Our next stop will be the "Home of Old Faithful Geyser of California", one of three in the United States that erupts at regular intervals.

Then it's on to Calistoga, famous for its mud and mineral baths. Calistoga is located at the north end of the Napa Valley. Here you will find many unique shops and, of course, lunch on your own in this historic little town.

Some say the grapes grown in the Napa Valley are superior to those grown in France. One thing for sure, the scenery is second to none.

Our next port of call is the Sterling Winery with its tiny aerial tram, your only entrance into this beautiful winery. Visit the visitor center, and of course a tour of the winery is included.

Then it's on to St. Supery Winery, if we can still stand, (a little play on words) for some more wine tasting; a vineyard exhibit display demonstrating different trellising and pruning methods; and a 1882 Queen Anne-style home that has been restored to its pre-Prohibition, wine-boom period and opened for tours.

Cost: \$35.00

Something New!! Auction At Saturday Luncheon

We're going to spice up the Saturday luncheon with an auction of nice violet-related craft items and growing products, as well as some highly desirable plants donated by hybridizers and commercials. In order to make this work, we need the help of commercial and individual members, affiliates and hybridizers. Money raised from the auction will be used to offset convention expenses, thus making the convention experience more affordable and more enjoyable.

So far we have two ceramic self-watering pots donated by the Tinaris, a lovely porcelain necklace featuring violets strung with rose agate beads donated by Convention Director Ann Miller and another violet-painted-on-china necklace donated by the Missouri Valley African Violet Council.

Won't you join us with this endeavor? If I receive notice of your intention to donate no later than March 15 you will receive special notice in the convention souvenir booklet.

All donations to the Saturday luncheon auction can be sent to Barb Elkin if the individual wants to pre-send it. Pat Richards will still need to be notified of the donation and given a description of the donated item.

Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Drive, Olathe, KS 66062-3004 (913) 829-4258, fax (913) 829-48581 email Patter257@aol.com

52nd Annual AVSA Convention & Show

Sunday, April 19, 1998 to Sunday, April 26, 1998

"Discover California"

SUNDAY, April 19, 1998

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	AVSA Convention Pre-Con
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Registration
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Information

MONDAY, April 20, 1998

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Information
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Tour # 1 - Coloma/Gold Panning/Hangtown
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Tour # 2 - South Lake Tahoe
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Registration
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Information
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	President's Reception for the Board of Directors
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Registration

TUESDAY, April 21, 1998

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. to Complete	Executive Committee Meeting and Salary Committee Meeting
8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Tour # 3 - Sacramento City Tour and Old Town
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Tour # 4 - California Highway Patrol/Governor's Mansion
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Information
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Committee Meetings: Affiliate, Advertising, Awards, Booster Fund, Commercial Activities, Commercial Sales and Exhibits, Convention, Shows and Judges, Membership & Promotion, Publications
2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Registration
2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Information
4:00 p.m. to 4:50	Vice President's Meetings with Committee Chairmen: 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President
6:30 p.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Tour # 5 - River Boat Dinner Cruise

WEDNESDAY, April 22, 1998

7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Registration
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Judging School
7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.	New Director's Orientation
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Tour # 6 - Davis Arboretum/Outlet Stores/Jelly Bean Factory
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Tour # 7 - Empire Gold Mine/Nevada City
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Information
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Opening Meeting
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Membership and Promotion Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table Ways and Means Table, Houston Promotional Table
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Luncheon
2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Registration
2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Information
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee Meeting
3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	AVSA Information and Sales
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Affiliate's Meeting
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Future Conventions Meeting
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Classification and Entries for convention workers ONLY

THURSDAY, April 23, 1998

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	Teachers Breakfast
7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Registration
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Information
7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales Open
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Tour # 8 - Coloma/Gold Panning/Hangtown
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.	Tour #9 - Napa Valley/Calistoga Geysers/Petrified Forest/Wine Tasting
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room Open
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Classifications and Entries
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information and Sales
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Membership and Promotions Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table
	Ways and Means Table, Houston Promotional Table
12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.	Information
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	AVSA Information and Sales
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Registration
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Entries for Those on Tours Only
6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.	1997 St. Petersburg Beach Slides
7:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Social Break
8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	"Let Me Tell You About My Violets", A Grower's Forum
11:00 p.m.	Design Work and Commercial Display Set-ups will close for the night

FRIDAY, April 24, 1998

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Registration
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Information
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	Design Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs <i>for replacement of blossoms only.</i>
7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Commercial Members Breakfast
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Judges and Clerks Instructions
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales Open
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information and Sales
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room Open
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Presentation #1 - "The Discovery" Plant Diagnosis by Dr. Charles Cole
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Presentation #2 - "Designing For Gold"
	Plant and Flower Arrangements from Beginning to the End by Heather Morgan
10:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m.	Membership and Promotions Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table , Booster Fund Table
	Ways and Means Table, Houston Promotional Table
10:00 a.m. to Completion	Judging of Show
12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.	Information
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Presentation #3 - "Food - Not Just for Thought" by Dave Neal
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Presentation #4 - "Trailing to Sacramento" - Trailers by Bev Promersberger
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	AVSA Information & Sales
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Presentation #5 - "Discovering Gold" - Producing Show Plants, General Care & Culture of African Violets by Winston Goretsky
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Presentation #6 - "Discovering Streptocarpus"
	One of the other Gesneriads by Dr. Ralph Robinson
4:30 p.m. to Complete	Photography - Library and AVM
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Opening Reception (cash bar)
	The Sacramento Banjo Players
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Membership and Promotions Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table
	Booster Fund Table, Ways & Means Table
7:00 p.m. to Complete	Opening Dinner - "What's Your Line" Show Awards will be presented
9:30 p.m. to 12:00 m/n	Entertainment "The Vintage Dancers"
	Show opens to AVSA Convention Registrants Only

SATURDAY, April 25, 1998

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Showroom open to photographers only
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7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 noon

10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. to Completion

9:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.

9:45 p.m. to 12:00 m/n

10:15 p.m.

12:00 m/n

Judges' Breakfast and Workshop

Registration

Information

Show Room Open

Commercial Sales Open

AVSA Information and Sales

Hospitality Room Open

Presentation #7 - "Discovering the Cure" Pests and Diseases by Dr. Charles Cole

Presentation #8 - "Tiny Treasures" - All about Miniatures by Winston Goretsky

Agriculture Officials available to certify plant materials

for transportation into controlled countries and states

Membership and Promotions Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table

Ways and Means Table, Houston Promotional Table

Violets "On Line" Meeting

New Introduction Luncheon Slides and Auction

Registration

AVSA Information & Sales

Hospitality Room Open

Annual Membership Meeting, Open Forum and Raffles

President's Reception & Hospitality Hour (non-alcoholic punch provided) (cash bar)

Eureka" Installation Banquet, Awards to be presented: Tinari Greenhouse's Membership

Awards, Publications Awards, Honorary Society Awards,

Entertainment - "Quitus High Andes Folk Music"

Commercial Display Tables Checkout

Commercial Sales Breakdown

Entry Checkout Begins

Show Room Closes

SUNDAY, April 26, 1998

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Commercial Sales Breakdown

Local Storage Clean-up

Commercial Storage Clean-up

Show Room Clean-up

Board of Directors Meeting



- OLD SACRAMENTO -

1. B.F. Hastings Building and Wells Fargo Bank Museum
2. The Big Four Building and Huntington-Hopkins Hardware Store
3. California Military Museum
4. California State Railroad Museum
5. Central Pacific Freight Depot and Excursion Steam Train
6. Central Pacific Passenger Station
7. Delta King Riverboat Hotel
8. Discovery Museum

9. Theodore Judah Monument
10. Old Eagle Theater
11. Pony Express Monument
12. Schoolhouse Museum
13. Underground Railroad
14. Visitor Center
15. Public Market

(P) = Parking

AVSA 1998 SACRAMENTO CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS

1. "The Discovery"

Plant Diagnosis

Friday, April 24, 1998

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

By Dr. Charles Cole

Research Entomologist from Texas A & M University

Dr. Cole, author of many articles on the subject of pests and diseases, including his own book, "Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets" will give us practical help in identifying and treating pests and diseases which invade our African Violet collections.

2. "Designing For Gold"

Planting and Flower

Arrangements From Beginning to End

Friday, April 24, 1998

9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

By Heather Morgan of San Mateo, CA

Heather will help us get back to the basis of African violet plant and flower designs. Heather has been creating award-winning designs for many years, and has won many award, including Best in Show, in both local and state-wide shows. One of her specialties is award-winning kinetic designs, as well as terrariums, flower and plant arrangements. Heather is a member of the San Mateo County African Violet Society, Life Member AVS and a member of the Northern California Council of African Violet Societies.

3. "Food ... Not Just For Thought"

Plant Nutrition

Friday, April 25, 1998

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

By Dave Neal, owner of Dyna-Gro Fertilizer and other Plant-care products of San Pablo California

"Plants need good nutrition the same as growing children. Learning to recognize early warning signals of malnutrition will help you ward off diseases and will insure healthy plants. Dave will teach us what we should feed hungry plants.

4. "Trailing to Sacramento"

Trailers

Friday, April 24, 1998

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

By Bev Promersberger of Monument, CO

Bev has mastered the art of growing trailers and is one of our most popular speakers. Not only will Bev share with us her methods of growing and grooming trailers but her presentation will also include some "hands-on" experience. Bev is an AVSA Senior Judge, a Teacher and currently serves as an AVSA Director. She put together the slide program on Trailers for the AVSA library. Bev will share secrets for successfully growing and showing African Violet Trailers.

5. "Discovering Gold"

Producing Show Plants

General Care and Culture of African Violets

Friday, April 24, 1998

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

By Winston J. Goretsky of Calgary, Alberta Canada

Winston Goretsky is a top-notch grower of African Violets. His success does not just happen but is a direct result of his dedication to the overall general care and culture of his plants. A top-

award winner in every show he enters, whether horticulture or designs, Winston will show us how it can be possible for YOU to win Best in show. Winston is in constant demand as a speaker and he will give us some down-to-earth advice and tips on developing show plants. An AVSA Judge, and a photographer, Winston currently serves as Second Vice President of AVS of Canada.

6. "Discovering Streptocarpus"

One of the 'other' Gesneriads

Friday, April 24, 1998

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

By Dr. Ralph Robinson from Naples NY

Formerly Dr. Robinson was a Professor of Business and Economics at SUNY at Buffalo NY and Daemen College, now is the owner and operator of The Violet Barn, popularly known as "Rob's Mini-O-Lets". Although perhaps best known for the wonderful miniatures he has hybridized and marketed, Ralph also produced many of the most outstanding Streptocarpus available today.

7. "Discovering the Cure"

Pests and Diseases

Saturday, April 25, 1998

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

By Dr. Charles Cole Research Entomologist from Texas A & M University

Dr. Cole, author of many articles on the subject of pests and diseases, including his own book, Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets will give us practical help in identifying and treating pests and diseases which invade our African violet collections.

8. "Tiny Treasures"

All About Miniatures

Saturday, April 24, 1998

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

By Winston J. Goretsky of Calgary, Alberta Canada

Winston Goretsky is a top-notch grower of African violets. His success does not just happen but is a direct result of his dedication to the overall general care and culture of his plants. A top-award winner in every show he enters, whether horticulture or design. Winston will show us how it can be possible for YOU to win Best in Show. Winston is in constant demand as a speaker and he will give us some down-to-earth advice and tips on developing show plants. An AVSA Judge, and a photographer, Winston currently serves as Second Vice President of AVS of Canada.



African Violet Society of America, Inc.

52nd Annual Convention & Show

April 19-26, 1998 - Radisson Hotel - Sacramento, California

Call for 1998 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Saturday, April 25, 1998, at 2:30 p.m., at Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, California, for the purpose of **electing Officers and Directors** and transacting business that may properly come before The Assembly.

Call for 1998 Board of Directors Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc., Board of Directors Meetings will be held Wednesday, April 22, 1998, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, California and Sunday, April 26, 1998, for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the Board of Directors.

Call for 1998 Open Forum Meeting

The 12th annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Saturday, April 25, 1998 at Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, California This will take place the first twenty minutes of the Annual Meeting. At this time, the Board of Directors of AVSA will welcome any and all AVSA members to come and present any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc.

Registration For Judging School For New Students & Certificate Renewals

An AVSA judging school will be held on Wednesday for AVSA members who wish to take their first judge's test and for AVSA judges who wish to renew their certificates. The lecture will be from 7:30 am - 12:00 noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The test begins at 2:00 pm. The registration fee is \$7.50, payable to AVSA. AVSA membership cards must be presented at the door. Proof of three blue ribbons is required.

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Judging Status: Student (1st exam) _____ Student (renewal) _____ Advanced _____ Auditing _____

Complete this form (or facsimile) and mail, with registration fee of \$7.50 (make check payable to AVSA) to Peg Phythyon, 852 Haggerty Rd., Wetumpka, AL 36092. The test will be based on latest edition of the Handbook, the 1997 printing. This is equivalent to the 1994 printing plus all updates through January 1997. **Registration for the judging school must be received by March 15, 1998.**

Attention Judges

All Advanced, Senior, and Master Judges are eligible to judge the convention show. If you would like to judge, please complete the form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150. **These must be postmarked no later than March 1, 1998.** If you plan to exhibit in the show, please indicate which classes you plan to enter. **DO NOT** serve on entries, classification, or placement if you apply to judge. Applications received after March 10, 1998 will be filed in the event of cancellations and/or vacancies. If selected to judge you will receive notification of your assignment.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Classes entered _____

Type of Judge: _____ Advanced _____ Senior _____ Master _____ AGGS _____ Nat'l Council

Experience: _____ Minis/Semiminis _____ Trailers _____ Species _____ Design _____ Commercial

Attention Judges Clerks

Student and Advanced Judges are invited to serve as clerks for the convention show. Any vacancies will be filled by other AVSA members. This means that AVSA members may apply to serve as clerks; however, judges will be given first preference. Any positions remaining will be filled by members in the order in which applications are received. All clerks will receive notification of their assignment. If you would like to clerk, please complete the form below and mail to: Bill Foster, AVS Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150. **These applications must be postmarked no later than April 1, 1998.**

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ Student Judge _____ Advanced Judge _____ AVSA Member

Design Division Reservations

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

I would like to enter the following interpretive design classes: (Limit six, excluding container gardens)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

Alternate Choices: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

I would like to enter Container Gardens in the following classes: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

Entries will be accepted ONLY, if postmarked January 1, 1998 or later by regular mail. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Reservations will be on a first come basis. Send reservations **no later than March 21, 1998**, to: Doris Weaver, 3940 North Alvarado, Stockton, CA 95204-2303..

AVSA's 52nd Annual Convention & Show
"Discover California"
 April 19-26, 1998 – Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, California
AVSA Convention Registration Form

NOTE: Each person registering must use a separate form. Xerox copies may be used if more are needed.

Please send this completed pre-registration form with your check, money order or credit card number made out in the appropriate amount to the Sacramento, California Convention Account. Mail to: The AVSA Office – 2375 North, Beaumont, TX 77702. Refunds will be made upon written request only if received by **March 19, 1998**. There will be a \$5.00 paper work fee charged for cancellations. Registrations received after March 19, 1998 will be \$65.00. Following receipt of your Registration, you will receive confirmation from the AVSA Office which includes your convention registration, tours, presentations, meal information and any registration materials being mailed in advance of the convention.

Membership #	Last Name	First	Initial	Area Code/Phone #
Street or P.O. Box		Apt. #	City/State	Zip

Names of Spouse/Guests/Children if attending Convention _____
 (Please remember to use a separate form for spouse, guest or child attending. Xerox copies may be used)

PLEASE CIRCLE APPROPRIATE STATUS:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (A) Individual Member | (E) Judge | (H) Commercial Member | (K) Board Member |
| (B) Life member | (F) Senior Judge | (I) Judging School Teacher | (L) Affiliate President |
| (C) Honorary Life Member | (G) Master Judge | (J) Bronze Medal Winner | (M) Non-Member (guest) |
| (D) Associate Member | | | |

This is my (#) _____ convention Name to go on Badge _____
 (Note: If you are a Commercial Member and want your business name to appear, please write it in also.)

_____ Yes _____ No **Is there any possibility that you might bring horticultural exhibits?**
 (If yes, entries information will be mailed to you.)

In case of emergency, whom should be notified? _____
 Name

Relationship	Address	City/State	Area Code/Phone #
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TRAVEL BY: Personal Car _____ Plane _____ Rental Car _____ Airline _____ Other _____ RV _____	ACCOMMODATIONS: Radisson Hotel _____ Other _____
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If by plane, arrival day/date and time _____
 If by plane, departure day/date and time _____

After March 19, 1998, each registration will be \$65.00 or \$68.00 respectively.

Convention Registration:

AVSA or Associate Member (Early Bird Discount)	\$40.00	\$ _____
AVSA or Associate Member (after March 19, 1998)	\$65.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (Early Bird Discount)	\$43.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (after March 19, 1998)	\$68.00	\$ _____
International Member (Early Bird Discount)	\$35.00	\$ _____
International Member (after March 19, 1998)	\$60.00	\$ _____
TOTAL REGISTRATION		\$ _____

Meals:

_____ 1. Wed.,	Board of Director's Luncheon (Turkey Croissant)	\$14.50	\$ _____
_____ 2. Thurs.,	Teacher's Breakfast (Plaza Crepes)	\$12.50	\$ _____
_____ 3. Fri.,	Commercial Breakfast (Eggs Benedict)	\$13.50	\$ _____
_____ 4. Fri.,	Opening Dinner (Stuffed Cornish Hens)	\$29.50	\$ _____
_____ 5. Sat.,	Judges Breakfast (Apple Crepes)	\$13.75	\$ _____
_____ 6. Sat.,	Luncheon (Oriental Chicken Salad)	\$16.50	\$ _____
_____ 7. Sat.,	Installation Banquet (Medallions of Beef and Poached Salmon)	\$32.50	\$ _____
TOTAL MEALS			\$ _____

PERSONS WISHING TO BE SEATED TOGETHER AT MEAL FUNCTIONS (LIMIT 10 PER TABLE) **MUST** MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO THE AVSA OFFICE, IN THE SAME ENVELOPE, **BEFORE March 19, 1998. THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS. RESERVATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE MARCH 19, 1998 WILL RECEIVE TABLE ASSIGNMENTS. ALL RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE WILL HAVE UNRESERVED SEATING AT MEAL FUNCTIONS. SPECIAL MEAL REQUESTS MUST BE MADE TO THE AVSA OFFICE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. REQUESTS MADE DIRECTLY TO HOTEL WILL NOT BE HONORED.**

TOURS: (1, 4, 5 and 8, lunch or dinner is included in the cost of these tours)

___ 1. Mon., April 20	Coloma/Panning/Hangtown	\$30.00	\$ _____
___ 2. Mon., April 20	South Lake Tahoe/Casino Gambling	\$28.00	\$ _____
___ 3. Tues., April 21	Sacramento City Tour/Old Town	\$15.00	\$ _____
___ 4. Tues., April 21	California Highway Patrol/Governor's Mansion	\$38.00	\$ _____
___ 5. Tues., April 21	Riverboat Dinner Cruise	\$50.00	\$ _____
___ 6. Wed., April 22	Davis Arboretum/Outlet Stores/Jelly Bean Factory	\$22.00	\$ _____
___ 7. Wed., April 22	Empire Gold Mine/Nevada City	\$32.00	\$ _____
___ 8. Thurs., April 23	Coloma/Panning/Hangtown	\$30.00	\$ _____
___ 9. Thurs., April 23	Napa Valley/Calistoga Geysers/Petrified Forest/Wine Tasting	\$35.00	\$ _____
		TOTAL TOURS	\$ _____

We reserve the right of cancellation if minimum number is not met.

Thursday, April 23, 1998

___ 6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.	"Social Hour and Slides of 51st St. Pete Beach Convention", by Nancy Hayes
___ 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	"Let Me Tell You About My Violets: A Grower's Forum", Moderator: Mary Boland, Panelists: Anne Tinari and Dr. Jeff Smith, Dr. Charles Cole

PRESENTATIONS: (Please check those presentations which you wish to attend)

Friday, April 24, 1998

___ 1. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	"The Discovery", by Dr. Charles Cole
___ 2. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	"Designing for Gold", by Heather Morgan
___ 3. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	"Food ... Not Just For Thought", by Dave Neal
___ 4. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	"Trailing to Sacramento", by Bev Promersberger
___ 5. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	"Discovering Gold", by Winston Goretsky
___ 6. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	"Discovering Streptocarpus", by Dr. Ralph Robinson

Saturday, April 25, 1998

___ 7. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	"Discovering the Cure", by Dr. Charles Cole
___ 8. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	"Tiny Treasures", by Winston Goretsky

PAYMENT:

Please double check to insure all numbers are listed correctly.
Check one:

Total Registration \$ _____

☐ Visa # _____

Total Meals \$ _____

Expires _____

Total Tours \$ _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expires _____

TOTAL

PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____

☐ Check or Money Order Enclosed

NOTE: Cancellations must be received

by March 19, 1998 to be entitled to a refund.

There will be a \$5.00 fee for all cancellations.

Send payment and completed registration form to:

Convention Registration

AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722

(409) 839-4725

Signature (If using card)

AVSA 1998 Sacramento Convention Growers Forum

"Let Me Tell you About My Violets". . . . Grower's Forum

Thursday, April 23, 1996 7:00 p.m.

Moderator Mary A. Boland

Panelists Dr. Jeff Smith, Anne Tinari
and Dr. Charles Cole

This is YOUR opportunity to "ask the experts". If you have questions about any aspect of growing African Violets and other Gesneriads - horticulture, pests, diseases, hybridizing, soils, chemicals, planting techniques and perhaps even using African Violets in designs don't miss this opportunity. This open forum is always a favorite among convention-goers.

Hotel Reservation

1998 AVSA Convention, Show and Annual Membership Meeting

Please mail to:
Radisson Hotel Sacramento
500 Leisure Lane
Sacramento, CA 98515

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

Sharing Room with _____

Make check or money order payable to **Radisson Hotel Sacramento**. Do not send currency. To confirm your reservations, the hotel accepts any one of the following as means of payment:

_____ One Night's Deposit Enclosed _____ MasterCard
_____ American Express _____ Visa

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Deposit refundable if reservation is cancelled 48 hours prior to the date of scheduled arrival. To cancel, phone - **Radisson Hotel Sacramento**.
Phone number: 1-800-333-3333; 9 a.m.-11 p.m. EST or 1-916-922-2020; Fax: 1-916-649-9463.

Room Rate: \$89.00 Single, Double
 \$99.00 Triple
 \$109.00 Quadruple
 \$135.00 Junior Suite
 12% City & Hotel Tax

Accommodations requested: _____ number of persons in room

_____ Single Arrival Date _____
(check in 4:00 pm)

_____ Double (two persons)
_____ Triple (three persons) Departure Date _____
(check out by noon)

_____ Quad (four persons)
_____ Smoking _____ Non Smoking

Bed types available: double, king (upon request)
Room rates subject to **City & Hotel Tax**.
Reservations **must** be received by: **March 19, 1998** The AVSA reserved room
block will be released after this date.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE SACRAMENTO AIRPORT

To Radisson Hotel by Super Shuttle

Upon exiting the airport terminal, follow the signage to the Ground Transportation Booth located on the first sidewalk near the airport restaurant. Travelers to the hotel may purchase tickets there at the rate of \$9.00 one way or \$17.00 round trip. This is a special rate for Radisson hotel guests and they must identify themselves as staying at the Radisson Hotel. Once a ticket is purchased there is a maximum wait of 15 minutes for the shuttle to depart. The Ground Transportation Booth will remain open until 11:30 p.m. If you arrive after that time call 1-800-258-3826 for a reservation.

Hotel to Airport by Super Shuttle

Hotel guests can wait by the hotel bell stand since reservations are not necessary. Vans will arrive at the Radisson every half hour 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and every hour 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For transportation after 6:00 p.m. guests shall call the 800 number for reservations 4 hours before departure.

DIRECTIONS TO THE RADISSON HOTEL SACRAMENTO

From Interstate 5 (From Stockton, Redding or Metro Airport)

Take Interstate 5 into Sacramento; Take the Capital City Freeway (Business 80) East; Exit at Exposition Boulevard (CAL EXPO); Turn left onto Exposition Boulevard; Turn left onto Leisure Lane, Guest Parking and Registration are located at the 2nd entrance.

From Interstate 80 (Eastbound - from San Francisco)

Take Interstate 80 East into Sacramento; Take the Capital City Freeway (Business 80) East; Exit at Exposition Boulevard (CAL EXPO); Turn left onto Exposition Boulevard; Turn left onto Leisure Lane; Guest Parking and Registration are located at the 2nd entrance.

From Interstate 80 (Westbound - from Reno)

Take Interstate 80 West into Sacramento; Once you pass the Madison Avenue Exit, I-80 will split. Keep to the right of the freeway and take The Capital City Freeway toward Downtown Sacramento; Exit at Exposition Boulevard (CAL EXPO); Turn Right onto Exposition Boulevard; Turn left onto Leisure Lane; Guest Parking and Registration are located at the 2nd entrance.

From Highway 50 (Westbound - from South Lake Tahoe)

Take Highway 50 West into Sacramento; Take the Capital City Freeway (Business 80) East; Exit at Exposition Boulevard (CAL EXPO); Turn left onto Exposition Boulevard; Turn left onto Leisure Lane, Guest Parking and Registration are located at the 2nd entrance.

From Highway 99 (Northbound - from Stockton)

Take Highway 99 North into Sacramento; Take the Capital City Freeway (Business 80) East; Exit at Exposition Boulevard (CAL EXPO); Turn left onto Exposition Boulevard; Turn left onto Leisure Lane, Guest Parking and Registration are located at the 2nd entrance.

HOSTS – HOSTESSES

If you would like to help at the Sacramento Convention by serving as a host or hostess in the show room, please send the information listed below by March 19, 1998 to: **Mrs. Vivian Ragan, 2026 Beach Street, Concord, CA 94519. Phone (916) 878-0505.**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

IS ROOM SHARING FOR YOU?

Room sharing has become very successful. Are you interested in making your expenses less by sharing a room with someone? We offer this service to anyone interested.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

\$89.00 - Single/Double \$99.00 - Triple

\$109 - Quad \$135 - Junior Suite

Plus 12% Tax

Non-Smoker _____ Smoker _____ No Preference _____

Age: Under 25 _____ 26-50 _____ 51 and Over _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Any other considerations: _____

When you have considered your plans and wish to share a sleeping room with someone, PLEASE contact the AVSA Office immediately.

All requests must be made by March 1, 1998, so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations which is March 19, 1998.

Please send requests to: AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722. Phone (800) 770-2872

RV PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS

R.V. space is available at **Cal Expo** for \$20/night with full hook-up. The park is located 3/4 mile from the Radisson Hotel. Call them at (916) 263-3187 for reservations.

The Radisson Hotel will allow 6 rigs to park at the hotel and stay in the R.V. The cost, without hookup's is \$20/night. You will register at the hotel and have hotel security. Parking the R.V. at the hotel and renting a room, the R.V. parks for free.

ATTENTION!

Airline information is **NOT** included this year since we have no airline contracts.

Most convention attendees are able to find better rates with other airline promotions and we have had little, or no participation in the drawing for free tickets.

show. I disbud every time I refill the reservoirs, then stop seven weeks before show, on all standards, regardless of whether the blooms are single, semi-double or double. Blooms seem to come on faster for a fall show because the weather is hotter while the blooms come on slower for a spring show.

Foliar feeding is not for me because once you start doing it, you have to keep it up, or have smaller leaves that tell exactly when the plants quit getting their extra feedings. My fertilizers are 23-19-17, 20-20-20 and 12-36-14, in the reservoirs. I top water with 5-50-17 about ten, eight and six weeks before a show to encourage extra blooming. Sometime green-leafed plants will get fish emulsion sticks if the foliage seems to need an extra bit of "greening up."

I try never to repot less than ten weeks before a show because that is when the plants are beginning to form the flower buds. You will want to produce the best bloom for the show. However, if a plant must have a larger pot to be entered in the show, I will repot three or four weeks before the show – after the buds have formed. At the final repotting before a show, I will remove a leaf – usually one that seems to be growing just a little "out of place" – and put it down in my rooting mix so there is a new generation of that plant in my collection if it is one that I particularly want to continue growing.

OTHER DETAILS

Lighting: I use a cool white tube and a GroLux Wide Spectrum tube in each fixture. There is a light which has been out for a couple of years called "cool white workshop light." These tubes are stronger and cheaper, but do not last as long. Dark end circles seem to appear much faster. The lights are on twelve hours a day, year around. The time is seldom changed, if ever. It is important to find the right spot under the lights for each of your plants. Some need the middle of the tubes where the light is stronger and others prefer the ends of the tubes. The plants with heavy variegation do best at the center of the tubes for me. I try to use the guidelines of replacing tubes after about a year.

Don't change both tubes in a fixture at once, though. That gives the plants too much extra light all at once. A good way to keep up with the age of tubes is to write on the tube the date replaced.

Wicking: I use either Volkmann wicking on my miniature and semiminature African violets, or size 36 cord from a building supply house. For the standard sized plants, 3.5 polypropylene macrame cord is used. All plants are on individual reservoirs.

Temperature: My house thermostat is set at 80 to 82 degrees during the summer, during the day when I am at work, but changed to 78 degrees when I come home. If you can keep them cooler in summer they probably would do better, but it isn't practical for me to do so. In the winter, the heat thermostat is set lower to about 72 degrees. A ceiling fan is on constantly for air circulation, no matter what the temperature.

Mildew: When this has been a problem, I've sprayed with a systemic fungicide that is supposed to be safe for ornamental plants. It contains Bayleton fungicide. You must be careful with this product and not use it more often than once a month or you will have distorted growth. I have used water, with a little Physan mixed in, on my finger to remove powdery mildew when there was only a patch or two. When a mildew problem has occurred, it seems worse on the leaves that have been put down for propagation.

Other pots: I've tried using the flat bulb pans for growing my African violets, but didn't care for them because if the foliage droops on the plant, it touches the table. I've also tried Texas potting and Oyama pots but found that I got no better results with those methods than the one I now use.

All I've done is give you some idea of "The Hilton Way" of growing. What works for me may not be what will work for you. You might have to do some experimenting, but I certainly wish you luck with all of your propagating, potting up, and growing African violets for showing. Just remember that however the ball bounces when the judges are through, it is just a hobby and oh, what a good time you had just getting your plants ready to show.

THANKS

To the AVSA Booster Fund and our Ohio Affiliates for a new fax machine in the AVSA Beaumont office. It was much needed and is much appreciated.

*Ann Miller
Convention Director*

Let's Go Underground

by Rena Douglas
Australia

Few people give much thought to ROOTS - the unseen anchors and water suppliers of plants, but they are just as essential to the plant's health and growth as the more showy parts growing above ground.

While the plant's stem and leaves are busy growing up toward the light, its roots grow downward, pulled by gravity. As they do so they fulfill their two main functions which are to anchor the plant firmly and absorb water and minerals from the soil. These are then drawn up through the plant to the leaves to be used in photosynthesis, the process which was discussed last month. In spring each year a plant's roots grow longer, the growth taking place only at the root tip, where the cells multiply very rapidly.

The growing root is a clever little thing, which has several specialized structures designed to produce optimal growth:

1. The ROOT CAP - has several layers of cells designed to protect the fragile root tip as it pushes its way down through the soil. These cells are continually being replaced as they wear out, and they also act as gravity sensors.

2. The GROWING POINT - the tip area immediately behind the root cap where cells divide very quickly.

3. The ZONE OF ELONGATION - This is made up of soft new cells whose VACUOLES (a large fluid-filled space inside each cell) expand and grow longer, pushing the root tip further down into the soil.

4. The PILIFEROUS LAYER - or hairy layer. The outer layer of cells produces millions of tiny tube-like growths - the root hairs. These root hairs anchor the plant more

firmly into the soil and help the plant take in minerals and water at a greatly increased rate. Plant root hairs can double the surface area of the roots which means that more water is absorbed and therefore more rapid growth is achieved.

XYLEM AND PHLOEM vessels - remember the "up" and "down" of the plant's plumbing system? These are found in the center of the root. Moisture and dissolved minerals move by a process called osmosis from the root hairs to the xylem for transport to the leaves. Roots grow thicker and tougher with age as they require more strength to support larger and heavier superstructures - this is especially true for trees.

For all this activity plants need ample soil moisture and mineral salts, but OXYGEN is also essential, and potting mix - especially for African violets - must be open and free-draining as well as able to retain an adequate amount of water. In a water-logged plant the oxygen is cut off; the roots rot and die and the plant cannot be supplied with water and therefore the plant dies too.

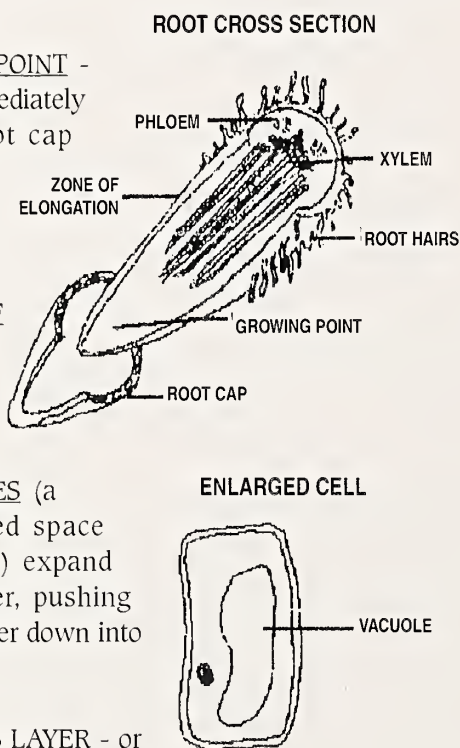
In dried out soil the roots wither and die and can no longer supply the rest of the plant which also dies. Therefore for excellent health in plants, it is vital to provide excellent conditions around its roots! However, along with all this good advice (which I could do with following myself) it is as well to remember that a plant can have too much of a good thing, and fertilizer salts can build up in the soil - often seen as an orange colored crust around the rim and drain holes of the pot - leading to an imbalance in nutrients and an unhealthy plant. Fortunately this can be remedied by leaching out with plain water.

ROOT PROBLEMS

Root problems usually show as wilting leaves and stems and a generally unhappy looking plant. There are four possible causes:

1. Over or under watering.
2. Over or sometimes under feeding.
3. Pests.
4. Diseases.

The solutions to problems 1. and 2. are relatively straightforward and obvious, however pests and diseases may prove more difficult to resolve.



3. The main pests to attack roots are soil mealy bugs and nematodes.

Soil mealy bug, or Pritchard mealy bugs, look quite like sesame seeds in size shape and color. They are sometimes seen in the reservoirs, and sometimes show as "webbiness" around the outside of the soil ball. If the soil is broken away from the roots they may be seen crawling fairly slowly around the roots, and sometimes they may be seen at the base of the stem. They eat and destroy the fine hair roots of the plant. The best treatment is often simply to discard the plant and check all other plants very carefully for signs of mealy bugs, however if the plant is special, a leaf can be put down or the center of the plant with four leaves and 3cms of stem may be potted up.

Drenching at weekly intervals for six weeks with a Malathion solution may be carried out, with a repeat every two to three months if you are really desperate!

Nematodes are tiny parasitic thread-like worms which penetrate the roots and live there. They show as lumpy swellings on the roots, and cause the plant to wilt and lack

vigor. The best treatment is to discard the plant, perhaps saving a leaf or center as described for the mealy bug treatment. Fortunately nematodes don't occur too often in African violets, but it's still a good idea to "be prepared".

The larvae of fungus gnats and springtails may cause some damage to fine hair roots, but this is not certain, and damage to the plants is negligible.

4. Diseases.

The usual disease to attack roots is a fungal disease - root rot. The plant usually collapses very rapidly with the roots turning brown and often going mushy. Treatment is to cut away the rotted part, spray with a fungicide and replant.

The best way to avoid fungal disease is to pay strict attention to cleanliness, watering, temperature and airiness around the plant.

*Reprinted from the Early Morn AV Group, Inc.
Mt. Waverley, Australia*

SEND YOUR CHOICES

Floyd Lawson • 1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

Every year our best growers and hybridizers advise beginning and even experienced growers to check the Best Varieties List for the surest and most consistent plants to add to their collections. The advice is good, because the Best Variety List is the compilation of those varieties which have performed across the nation, in the many different growing conditions, and with many different approaches to growing. The Best Variety List is YOUR list of those plants which have done the best for YOU.

Here is your opportunity to make your voice heard. Which are your favorites? Which would you encourage others to buy and grow?

Between now and May 1, 1998, every member of AVSA should take time to sit down and make a list of 25 of your favorite plants. We would like to have every member's opinion. The lists may be sent singly, or as a part of an affiliate's summary.

If you do decide to make only one list for the club, list all plants voted on and how many votes each received.

Also, enclose the total number of members voting, as well as the name of the affiliate.

Please send your list to:

Floyd Lawson • 1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

or email your votes to: floydll@earthlink.net

or through a link on the AVSA website: <http://avsa.org>



In Memory

OPAL RAGSDALE

Honorary Life Member of the Memphis AVC, Opal Ragsdale, passed away in September, 1997. Opal had not been an active member in recent years due to her health, but she is remembered as a vital part of the club.

FRANCES BEAVER

Frances Beaver of Shawnee, Kansas passed away in September, 1997. A member of the AVC of Greater Kansas City, Mid-America AVS, Midwest AV Judges Council, and Missouri Valley AV Council, Frances enjoyed attending violet events throughout the midwest, as well as AVSA National conventions.

VIOLA J. TUCKER

The Columbus AVS (Ohio) lost charter member, Viola J. Tucker in November, 1997. Serving in many positions in both the CAVS and the Ohio State AVS, Viola was also a Teacher of Judging Schools and served as a Master Judge.



CAROLINE FLEISCH

Caroline Fleisch of Minneapolis, MN, passed away in November, 1997. She was a Life Member of the North Star AV Council, AVSM, Judges Council of MN and AVSA. Caroline shared her knowledge and enthusiasm with each new member, always encouraging them to enter shows and grow better plants.

Showcase

'Honey Berry'

New Introduction

1997 AVSA National Show

Hybridized by:

H. Pittman

Semiminiature



Kohleria 'Laura'

From the AVS of Canada

1997 National Show

Exhibited by:

Tony Hullerman

Photo Credit:

Winston J. Goretsky





'Suncoast Lavender Silk'

From the Best AVSA

Standard Collection

1997 National Show

*Exhibited by: **Phyllis King***

*Hybridized by: **S. Williams***

Standard

*Photo Credit: **Gus Francisco***

Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

Ruth Carapella from Idaho initiated a great discussion when she presented to the computer Gesneriphile list the question, "What do you wish someone would have told you when you first started growing violets?" You should have seen the wonderful responses! I wrote her asking if I could use her idea in this column and focus on gesneriads. She heartily agreed. So, Dear Readers, **what do you wish someone would have told you when you first started growing GESNERIADS?** Write or e-mail me with your advice knowing it may show up in this column.

It's time for New Year's resolutions, so here are a few of mine:

1. Wash out my reservoirs before visitors think I'm storing a life time supply of mint jelly in those containers.
2. Quit playing "Hide and Seek" with my fertilizers 1/4 teaspoon. I should attach it to one of those "key finder" gadgets.
3. Grow 6 "new to me" other gesneriads and violets.
4. Maintain the 70 pounds I lost in 1997 with diet and exercise. See my new photo above!!

I highly recommend growing "new to you" violets and other gesneriads! I taught gesneriad judging schools in Florida and in Kansas City this past year. On February 21, 1998, I'll teach another one in Austin, Texas. I always encourage people to audit my school even if they don't want to become gesneriad judges. Just like attending AVSA judging schools, you learn so much!

Growing Gesneriads in Sphagnum Moss

In November, 1997, I participated in the Lone Star African Violet Council's convention. **Delores Gibbs** from San Marcos, Texas, won blue ribbons with several very well grown gesneriads. She primarily grows gesneriads in sphagnum moss obtained at a local building supply store. Let me clearly state that there's no soil or perlite in the pot. She wicks her sphagnum using one part of a 3-ply wick. I examined a pot with a Chirita in it.

The sphagnum is not loose, but isn't packed ultra

tightly either. Delores told me she uses 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon. She leaches the pot but not with any set schedule. Her stands have double lights, and she uses Sylvania's Gro-lux wide spectrum lights. She has inspired me to try this new method.

I will casually mention that I won Best Gesneriad at the Texas AV convention with a *Smithiantha zebrina* hybrid. This 13 inch tall plant had stunningly beautiful, green-black leaves covered with orange-red hairs. The lower leaves were approximately 6" wide by 9" long. It's a rhizomatous plant which will eventually have bright orange blossoms. Without blossoms, this plant is quite appropriate for the 'foliage only' class. I obtained the rhizomes from a friend in North Dakota whom I met on the Gesneriphile list. He and I exchanged rhizomes last spring which is a great way to introduce new gesneriads to one's collection.

I highly recommend your local club exchange rhizomes and tubers with a club in another state. Mail them after the last frost of the season. If frozen, they'll arrive as mush.

New Zealand Sphagnum Moss

While attending the AVSA convention in Florida I had a chance to see **Mollie Howell's** home and prize winning gesneriads. At one time she was able to get milled sphagnum moss and added that into her potting soil for her *Streptocarpus* plants. Mollie introduced me to fat, fluffy New Zealand Sphagnum Moss. Although it's more expensive than regular sphagnum moss, I tried it and highly recommend it for rooting tip cuttings. I am always worried about mold, insects, snail eggs, and fungus in any type of moss. Therefore, I boil a pot of water. Then I shut off the burner and add the sphagnum. The moss is pushed down into the water with a wooden spoon. I quickly put a lid on top of the pot and let it cool for several hours before draining off the excess water.

If you use something other than plain violet soil for gesneriads, or if you grow gesneriads hydroponically, please write to me.

Coming Events



January 16 - 18 - MISSOURI

St. Louis Flower Show
America's Center, 701 Convention Plaza, St. Louis, MO
Info: (314) 569 - 3117

February 1 & 2 - FLORIDA

First Lakeland AVS Show/Sale
Lakeland Garden Ctr., 802 E. Orange St., Lakeland, FL
Feb 1 - 11am - 6pm
Feb 2 - noon - 5:30
Info: (941) 665 - 4867

February 7 - 15 - OHIO

National Home & Garden SuperShow
Cleveland's International Exposition Center
Info: (800) 600 - 0307

February 13 & 14 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS Plant Sale
Pierre Bossier Mall, 2950 E. Texas, Bossier City, LA
Both Days: 10am - 5pm
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

February 14 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura County AVS Plant Sale
Buenaventura Mall, Mills Rd. & Main St., Ventura, CA
Hours: 10am - 6pm
Info: Lisa Martinez (805) 983 - 3522

February 14 - ARIZONA

Desert Sun AVS Judged Show/Sale
Christown Mall, 19th Ave. & Bethany Home Rd., Phoenix, AZ
10am - 5pm
Info: Thelma Heinrich (602) 585 - 0523

February 15 & 16 - MISSOURI

AVC of Greater Kansas City Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania, Kansas City, MO
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: (816) 796 - 8378

February 21 & 22 - ARIZONA

Tucson AVS Show
ElCon Mall, 3601 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ
Sat - 10am - 9pm
Sun - noon - 5pm
Info: (520) 326 - 3057

February 21 - March 1 - NORTH CAROLINA

38th Annual Southern Spring Show
"America the Beautiful"
Info: Kristi Helms (800) 849 - 0248

February 27 - March 1 - FLORIDA

Tampa AVSA, 23rd Annual Judged Show/Sale
Eastlake Square Mall, 5701 East Hillsborough Ave, Tampa, FL
Feb 27 - noon - 9pm
Feb 28 - 10am - 9pm
March 1 - noon - 5pm
Info: John Menish (813) 681 - 1910

February 27 - March 1 - FLORIDA

Violet Patch of South Florida Annual Show
Coral Ridge Mall, 5200 North Federal Highway, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Info: Bea Marx (954) 581 - 0817

February 28 & March 1 - ALABAMA

Montgomery AVS 26th Annual Show/Sale
Southern Homes & Gardens, US Highway 231, North Montgomery, AL
Feb 28 - 1pm - 5pm
Mar 1 - 1pm - 4:30pm
Info: (334) 567 - 5433

February 28 & March 1 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS Show/Sale
Corpus Christi Garden Ctr., 5325 Greeley Dr., Corpus Christi, TX
Feb 28 - 1pm - 6pm
March 1 - noon - 5pm
Info: Marjorie Bullard (512) 992 - 3009

February 28 & March 1 - KANSAS

Wichita AV Study Club Show/Sale
701 N. Amidon, Wichita, KS
Feb 28 - 10am - 4pm
March 1 - 1pm - 3:30pm
Info: Helen Barrett (316) 683 - 2877

February 28 & March 1 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa Show/Sale
Tulsa Garden Ctr., 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK
Feb 28 - 11am - 5pm
March 1 - noon - 5pm
Info: Rose Howlett (918) 627 - 7395

March 6 & 7 - TEXAS

Spring Branch AVC Show/Sale
Fair Haven United Methodist Church
1330 Gessner, Houston, TX
March 6 - 2pm - 5pm
March 7 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Judy Carter (281) 492 - 2034

March 6 & 7 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVS Show/Sale
Mar 6 - noon - 4pm
Mar 7 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Patti Schwindt (407) 423 - 4750

March 7 & 8 - OHIO

FloralScape '98
Cleveland Convention Center, 500 Lakeside Ave.
Info: (216) 721 - 1695

March 7 & 8 - LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge AVS Annual Show/Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd.
March 7 - 2pm - 5pm
March 8 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Sallie Barlow (504) 665 - 7958

March 12 & 14 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS Annual Show/Sale
Plano Market Square Mall (Garden Ridge)
Avenue K at Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX
March 12 & 13 - 10am - 9pm
March 14 - 10am - 6pm
Info: (972) 278 - 0389

March 13 & 14 - FLORIDA

Gulf AVC Show/Sale
Ft. Myers - Lee Co. Garden Council Bldg.
2646 Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers, FL
March 13 - 9am - 6:30pm
March 14 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Lillian Scott - (941) 542 - 9193

March 13 & 14 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS 26th Annual Show/Sale
Pierremont Mall, 4801 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA
March 13 - 2pm - 5pm
March 14 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

March 14 - TEXAS

Fort Worth AV Society and
Moonlight AVS 1998 Sale and Exhibit
Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center, University Dr., Ft. Worth
Hours: 9am - noon
Info: Mural Fort (817) 589 - 1149

March 14 & 15 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVC Show/Sale
Hernando Community Blood Bank,
12396 Cortez Blvd. (Rt. 50)
Spring Hill, FL
March 14 - 10:30am - 7pm
March 15 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Linda Nelson (352) 799 - 0973

March 14 & 15 - LOUISIANA

Atchafalaya AVS Show/Sale
Municipal Auditorium, Myrtle Street
March 14 - 2pm - 5pm
March 15 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Donnie Clement (504) 384 - 6852

March 14 & 15 - CALIFORNIA

South Coast AVS Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verde Peninsula, CA
March 14 - noon - 5pm
March 15 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Ralph Breden (310) 373 - 5697

March 14 & 15 - NEW YORK

Sweet Water AVS Show/Sale
West Sayville Fire Dept., Montauk Highway
March 14 - 2pm - 5pm
March 15 - noon - 5pm
Info: 473 - 8726

March 14 & 15 - FLORIDA

AVS of Pensacola 22nd Annual Show/Sale
Bayview Community Center, 12th Ave. and Lloyd St.
Pensacola, FL
March 14 - 2pm - 6pm
March 15 - noon - 5pm
Info: Jan Kurtz (850) 932 - 8093

March 14 & 15 - TEXAS

Fort Worth AVS Show/Sale
Ft. Worth Botanic Garden Center, Orchid Room
University Drive, Ft. Worth, TX
March 14 - 1pm - 5pm
March 15 - 1pm - 4pm
Virginia Linson
Info: 481 - 2350

March 18 - 21 - NORTH CAROLINA

Dixie AVS 42nd Annual Convention, Show/Sale
Hosted by the First Goldsboro AVS
Hilton Inn Greenville, NC
Open to Public: Saturday, March 21, 10am - 4pm
Info: Lorena Bunn (919) 747 - 8917

March 21 & 22 - TEXAS

Moonlight AVS Annual Judged Show
Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center,
University Dr., Ft. Worth
Both Days: 1pm - 4pm
Info: Mural Fort (817) 589 - 1149

March 27 & 28 - CALIFORNIA

Pomona Valley AVS Show
Church of the Brethren, 2175 Bonita Ave., La Verne, CA
March 27 - 1pm - 6pm
March 28 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Marilyn McQuown (909) 672 - 7353

April 3 & 4 - CANADA

Stampede AVS 22nd Annual Show/Sale
Market Mall Shopping Center, Fountain Court Area,
3625 Shaganappi Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Mall Hours
Info: Winston J. Goretsky (403) 241 - 8313
(leave question on voice mail,
with return contact information.) or
email goretsky@cadvision.com

April 3 - 5 - MINNESOTA

Minnesota AVS Show/Sale
Maplewood Mall, White Bear Ave, just south of Hwy.
694, Maplewood, MN
Fri - 10am - 9pm
Sat - 10am - 6pm
Sun - noon - 6pm
Info: Dolores Harrington (612) 571 - 0212

April 3 & 4 - ALABAMA

Early Bird VC Annual Show/Sale
Garden Center Bldg., Ruth B. Strange Auditorium,
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Fri - 2pm - 4pm
Sat - 9am - 3pm
Info: Ramona Hodges (205) 833 - 1309

April 4 & 5 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Morris County
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown, NJ
April 4 - 1:30pm - 5pm
April 5 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Karyn Cichocki (973) 579 - 7914

April 3 & 4 - FLORIDA

AVS of Fort Walton Beach Annual Show/Sale
Santa Rosa Mall, Mary Esther, FL
Info: (850) 678 - 6902, (850) 863 - 2529,
(850) 651 - 1638

April 18 & 19 - CANADA

Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal
Annual AV Exposition
Chalet du Parc Maisonneuve,
4601 Sherbrooke Est, Montréal,
Quebec, Canada
Sat - 10am - 5pm
Sun - 10am - 4pm
Info: (514) 990 - 5701

Over a year ago, Jim Eyerdom closed the doors of Granger Gardens after nearly fifty years of producing some of America's most beloved African violets. Yet, questions remain. Why would one of the country's largest African violet producers call it quits? In a recent telephone interview, Jim gave me the answers.

Granger Gardens began as a truck farm shortly after World War II. Owners Hugh and Grace Eyerdom soon built greenhouses in which to grow celery and tomatoes and start other plants. When son Dale brought home an African violet, Grace grew it and began buying others wherever she could. Soon they were being grown in some spare space in one of the greenhouses.

When Grace advertised in the classified section of a local paper that African violets were available, people crowded the parking lot and adjacent road to get in on America's new love. The year was 1949.

Before long, Hugh was hybridizing to get his own varieties. Many of those varieties have been named to AVSA's Honor Roll and are still very popular. Using up to one-half acre of greenhouse space, the Eyerdoms continued to grow and sell outstanding varieties. (See article on Granger Gardens in July/Aug 1987 AVM).

Hugh and Grace's son, Dale, came into the business. Later, grandson Jim, came on board. After the deaths of Hugh and Dale, Jim had to take a serious look at the future and weigh the factors he was facing.

One of Jim's considerations were the aging greenhouses. The cost to replace an old steam heat boiler was going to be prohibitive. The cost of heating oil has risen over the years, as have maintenance and insurance costs.

In most businesses, the cost of production can be passed on to the customers, but not in this case. Many African violets growers are willing to buy a plant or two from a super market or department store. The plants grow and bloom for a few weeks and are then thrown away. Soon two or three are purchased again and the cycle is repeated. The mass marketers have created a disposable African violet for which consumers will pay a limited amount.

The hobbyist is willing to pay more, but there are not enough of them to justify huge expenditures for updating equipment. Jim said, "We were too big for what needed to be done."

Granger Gardens' competitors have another advantage. Most African violets sell during the first four months of the year. Many greenhouses are now buying young starter

plants in January from large growers and growing them to sell by May. Other floral crops such as poinsettias are then grown for later seasonal sales.

"For hybridizers like us, we had to stay open twelve months a year even though eight months of that year we were not meeting expenses," said Jim.

Another huge factor in the decision to close is the change in American society. Fewer women are staying home now. Women who enter the work force are less inclined to be involved with African violets. Spare time for all family members also seems to have decreased. Over all, the customer base has declined over the past twenty years.

Then there are the intangibles Jim had to consider. Running a large greenhouse is fraught with dangers and worries. A power outage or hail storm can put a grower out of business.

Shipping schedules must be juggled so customers across the country will receive their plants when they want them. Labor strikes and airline delays were other factors.

The owner of a business cannot quit at 5:00 p.m., but must work until the job is finished. Jim worked until 6:00 p.m. or later six days a week, then spent two to three hours spraying on Sunday morning.

Jim's mother and grandmother are supportive of the closing. Jim explained that "...all they had to do was look at the bottom line." While they were not yet losing money, the business soon would have if changes were not made.

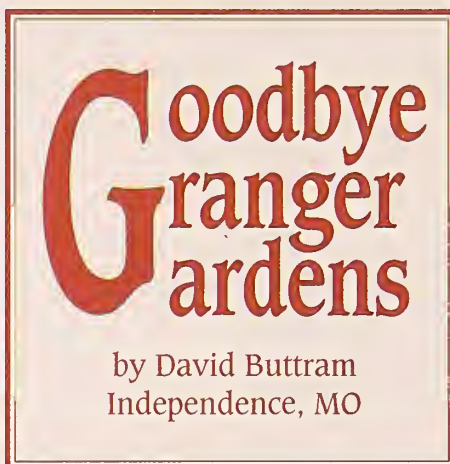
At age forty, Jim is not the first person to make a career change. Within a month of closing down operations, he was employed by Cleveland Floral Products and is using his experience and knowledge to call on greenhouses to sell plastic floral products. He loves the challenge.

Thankfully, the outstanding introductions from Granger Gardens will continue into the foreseeable future, as Jim has built some benches with lights in his basement and is growing stock plants of the best recent varieties for breeding purposes.

He will continue to hybridize and make his introductions available to the African violet community. His plans are to release a few varieties every year for a while.

Though he doesn't miss the pressure of running his own business, Jim does miss talking and corresponding with the many friends he and his family have made over the years.

Commercial growers face incredible challenges in keeping prices low yet earning a decent profit. Please be supportive of your AVSA Commercial members lest we see others go the way of Granger Gardens.





1998 CONVENTION AWARDS SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Society Awards – Amateur Division

Best African Violet in Show	\$50.00 & Tri-color Rosette
2nd Best African Violet in Show	\$35.00 & Rosette
3rd Best African Violet in Show	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Standard	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Trailer	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Semiminiature	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Miniature	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Species	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Vintage Violet	\$25.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes in Horticulture	\$50.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-up in Horticulture	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Standard Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Standard Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette
Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette
Best Other Gesneriad	\$25.00 & Rosette

Society Awards – Design Division Amateur or Commercial

Best Design in Show	\$50.00 & Tri-color Rosette
2nd Best Design in Show	\$35.00 & Rosette
3rd Best Design in Show	\$25.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes in Design	\$50.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Design	\$25.00 & Rosette

Society Awards – Commercial Display Tables

Best Commercial Display Table	\$125.00 & Blue Rosette
2nd Best Commercial Display Table	\$100.00 & Red Rosette
3rd Best Commercial Display Table	\$75.00 & White Rosette
4th Best Commercial Display Table	\$50.00 & Honorable Mention Rosette
Best African Violet on Display Tables	\$50.00 & Rosette

Society Awards – Commercial Specimen Plants

Special Awards – Commercial Division

Specified Awards – Commercial Specimen Plants

Best Holtkamp Collection	\$300.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$200.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$100.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
Best Standard Green Foliage Edged	\$25.00 & Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

Best African Violet in Show	\$50.00 & Rosette
2nd Best African Violet in Show	\$35.00 & Rosette
3rd Best African Violet in Show	\$25.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes in Specimen Plants	\$50.00 & Rosette
Best Other Gesneriad	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Standard Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Standard Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette
Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette

Society Awards – Commercial Display Tables and Specimen Plants

Best New Cultivar	\$75.00, Blue Rosette and Plaque
2nd Best New Cultivar	\$50.00 & Red Rosette
3rd Best New Cultivar	\$25.00 & White Rosette

Special Awards – Design Division

Specified Awards – Design Division

Sweepstakes in Design	\$50.00
Metropolitan St Louis AV Council	
Best Dish Garden	\$25.00
Memorial Award for Ruth Longmire donated by Margaret Schmierer	

President's Award

Best African Violet in Show – Amateur
Handpainted China Plate

Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award

A special award of \$50.00, donated by Tinari Greenhouses, will be presented at the 1998. Sacramento Convention to the individual, club or affiliate obtaining 25 or more new members during 1997.

To be eligible for the award, send a complete list of names and addresses of the new members to Linda L. Golubski, AVSA Awards Chairman, 1416 N.W. A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015, by January 31, 1998.

Specified Awards - Amateur Division

Best Holtkamp Collection	\$300.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$200.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$100.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
Best African Violet in Show	Silver	Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall
Best Standard Trailer	\$10.00	Nancy Amelung
Best Episcia	\$10.00	Nancy Amelung
Best Species	\$10.00	Nancy Amelung
Best Species	Rosette	AV Society of Western New York
Best Species	\$50.00	Cape Code Violetry
Best Bustle Leaf or Wasp Blossom	\$50.00	Belisle's Violet House
Best Miniature	\$25.00	Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall
Best semiminiature	\$25.00	Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall
Sweepstakes in Horticulture	\$50.00	Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council
Best Standard Green Foliage Edged	\$25.00 & Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Best Semimini Green Foliage Edged	\$25.00 & Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
2nd Best Vintage Violet	\$10.00	Barbara Elkin

Specific Awards - Amateur Division

Audrey Buchanan	\$100.00	Memorial Award for Audrey Ann Buchanan donated by James Buchanan
Everdina	\$10.00	Hans & Everdina Inpijn
King Thunder	\$10.00	Magic Knight AV Society
Mickey Mouse	\$10.00	Hans & Everdina Inpijn
Rob's Perfect Peach	\$25.00 & Rosette	Rob's Mini-o-lets
Tomahawk	\$50.00	Lincoln AV Society

Other Awards - Amateur Division

\$100.00 donated by AV Council of Florida Lone Star AV Council	Missouri Valley AV Council	\$25.00 donated by Lynn Lombard Montrose AV Society N. Texas AV Judges Council N. California Council of AV Societies	The First AV Society of Dallas Unpredictable AV Society Ruth Wheeler Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs Enid Wood
\$50.00 donated by Upper Pinellas AV Society			
\$30.00 donated by AV Society of Minnesota		\$20.00 donated by Yvonne Acree AV Club of Greater Atlanta AV Society of Dayton AV Society of Lower Bucks County First Denton AVS	Dolores Gibbs Jim & Linda Golubski Jane Rexilius Fred Roth Union County Chapter AVSA
\$25.00 donated by Aca's Violet Tree AV Study Club Alpha AV Society Central Texas Judges Council First Nighter AV Society Bill & Paula Foster Joan Halford Maurice & Jackie Jones Lakeshore AV Society	Ohio State AV Society Quad City AV Society Mrs. Josephine Schindler St. Louis AV Judges Council South Coast AV Society Spring Branch AV Club Memorial Award for Albert Stancliff Donated by AV Society of Denver Chapter One Mary Ann Switzer	\$15.00 donated by Gladys Cartwright \$10.00 donated by AV Club of Greater Kansas City AV Club of Morris County Amethyst AV Club Carolyn Burr	Richmond AV Society Jan & Ron Davidson First AV Society of Wichita Falls First Austin AV Society Pittsburgh Violet Society

Other Awards - Design Division

\$25.00 donated by \$20.00 donated by \$15.00 donated by \$10.00 donated by	Albuquerque AV Club Kathy Lahti Meredith Hall Amethyst AV Club	Fran Russom Carolyn Burr
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Other Awards - Commercial Specimen Plants

Sweepstakes	\$50.00	Sacramento Convention Committee
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Other Awards - Commercial Display Tables

Best Commercial Display Table	\$300.00	Sacramento Convention Committee
2nd Best Commercial Display Table	\$200.00	Sacramento Convention Committee
3rd Best Commercial Display Table	\$100.00	Sacramento Convention Committee
4th Best Commercial Display Table	\$50.00	Sacramento Convention Committee

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PLANTS

Hunger Signs in Violets

by Dr. Charles Cole

Providing good nutrition for our African violet plants involves more than purchasing a fertilizer product and applying it to the plants. We need a basic knowledge of what a plant needs and how a specific nutrient affects a plant under a given set of conditions. If we understand how to use specific fertilizer elements we may use them to obtain a desired response from our plants. A familiar example of this is seen when we reduce the use of nitrogen in our fertilization program in an effort to enhance variegation in certain cultivars.

There are 16 chemical elements which are essential for plant growth. Often we see them grouped into two groups, the non-mineral elements and the mineral elements.

The 3 non-mineral elements are Carbon (C), Hydrogen (H), and Oxygen (O). These elements are obtained from water and from the air. They are utilized in the form of H₂O, water and CO₂, Carbon dioxide, in the process of photosynthesis. A deficiency of carbon dioxide, water or light can result in reduced growth but may produce no other visible symptoms.

The 13 mineral elements essential for normal plant growth are absorbed from the soil (potting media). These elements are divided into 3 groups; the primary nutrients, the secondary nutrients and the micronutrient.

Primary Nutrients are often called the fertilizer nutrients. They consist of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K). The percentages reported on many commercial fertilizer containers refer to these nutrients. For example, 5-10-5 refers to the percent of N, P & K respectively in the product.

Secondary Nutrients are often deficient in soils but not nearly so often as the primary nutrients. These nutrients are: Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg) & Sulfur (S). These nutrients are utilized in many processes which take place in the plant and deficiencies seriously affect plant health.

Micronutrient are often called minor elements or trace elements. Many commercial products have one or more of these elements added. Micronutrient included; Mn - Manganese, Iron (Fe), Zinc (Zn), Copper (Cu), Boron (B), Molybdenum (Mo) and Chlorine (Cl).

Although essential in trace amounts these micronutrient in excess amounts can be toxic to plants, resulting in damage to the plants which is as serious or more serious than if they occurred in deficient amounts.

The availability and utilization of all plant nutrients are affected by water, temperature, light and pH.

In general water which is often called the universal solvent is necessary for dissolution and

transport of nutrients throughout the plant system and for the completion of many of the continuous processes which go on within a plant. Temperature, within its tolerant range regulates the speed of reactions within a plant; initiating some reactions, speeding up reactions, slowing reaction and stopping some reactions. Light acts as a power source, also effecting reactions.

These 3 factors have been discussed in detail in a previous article in the AVSA Magazine (Vol. 50, No. 6, pp 12-14).

SOIL pH

The pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a substance; soil, water, etc. It is measured on a scale of from 0-14. A pH of 7 is neutral. A pH above 7 is alkaline, like ammonia and a pH below 7 is acid, like vinegar.

When soil particles are saturated with ions of calcium, magnesium, potassium or sodium it has a high pH and is said to be basic or alkaline. These soils are often referred to as "sweet" soils. When these ions are replaced with hydrogen ions the soil has a low pH and is said to be acid. These soils are often referred to as "sour" soils. Leaching is a common cause of sour soils, as the ions creating a high pH are leached out and are replaced with H ions.

The pH of the media in which plants are grown can greatly affect their health. The pH plays an important role in determining which nutrients are available and in what amounts. This is especially true in the case of K, C, Mg and S. Nutrients can either be tied up and unviable or released in toxic amounts, depending upon the pH.

The most favorable pH for nutrient uptake by plants ranges from 6.3 - 6.7. However, certain plants prefer more acid conditions while others thrive in higher alkaline conditions. African violets prefer a pH of 6.5-6.7.

PLANT NUTRITION

It is extremely difficult to induce nutrient deficiency symptoms in the African Violet. Research has shown that you may grow AV's in sterile soil for 18-24 mos. and still show no symptoms and a specific nutrient deficiency.

The African violet stores nutrients in its stems, petioles and leaves. This makes the plant a very well buffered system which is capable of "borrowing" nutrients from one part of the plant to feed another part. This movement of nutrients and "food" from one part of the plant to another is known as translocation. Seldom do symptoms of nutrient deficiencies appear in A.V.'s while the deficiency occurs, however symptoms may occur much later, sometimes even after the problem has

been corrected.

PLANT FOOD

When we fertilize African violets we put nutrients into the soil not plant food. African violets, like other plants, manufacture their own food. Nutrients are taken up by the roots and transported to the leaves. Here in the presence of light, using chlorophyll as a catalyst the nutrients are, through the process of photosynthesis, manufactured into amino acids, proteins, starches, sugar, carbohydrates and other products that plants use as food for plant growth and development. The products of photosynthesis, plant food, is then translocated to other areas of the plant where they are used by the plant or stored for future use.

FERTILIZATION

The soil or potting media in which plants grow serves as a pantry to accumulate and store nutrients for use by plants.

Of all of the essential nutrient elements only Nitrogen moves freely through the soil in the form of nitrates. Nitrogen is readily water soluble and can travel anywhere water can go. The other nutrients move little to none and are available only where plant roots reach them. The availability of nutrients in the soil is effected by temperature and soil pH.

PRIMARY NUTRIENTS

Nitrogen is abundantly available in nature but not in a form available to plants. Plants take up N in the form of nitrate salts and ammonium salts. These are converted into amino acids. Amino acids are combined to form proteins. Proteins are used to build plant tissues.

Nitrogen is often referred to as the "foliage" nutrient. Fertilizing a plant deficient in N often results in a quick spurt of plant growth and an intensification of the green color as N is found in the chlorophyll molecule which gives a plant its green color.

A deficiency in N produces a condition called chlorosis. This is manifest in a loss of green color and the plants appear "yellowed" or faded in color. The older leaves of a plant are the first affected because nitrogen, is translocated from older tissue to the younger actively growing tissue in the crown of a plant, leaving the older leaves deficient in the element.

Phosphorus is necessary for the utilization of energy in plant metabolism. It is necessary for the photosynthetic reaction which transforms the energy of light into carbohydrates. Phosphorus is essential for proper cell division. A deficiency in P results in reduced growth, thin stalks, small leaves and in severe deficiencies a stunned growth.

A deficiency in P often results in a reddish, purplish or brown color developing in plant leaves, especially along the leaf veins. Phosphorus is often referred to as the "root" nutrient and is often applied to give the root system of young plants a boost.

Potassium is needed for protein and carbohydrate formulation. Potassium activates specific enzymes in a plant and regulates a number of chemical reactions necessary for

metabolism and growth. Potassium enhances the plant's ability to resist disease, cold temperature and other adverse conditions.

Plants deficient in K may show a dark green or blue-green color. Necrotic (dead) spots may occur on leaves or along the leaf margin. Plant growth is slowed under severe conditions. Blossom and seed formulation can be affected.

Symptoms will appear on the older leaves first as K is translocated from the older to the younger leaves.

Potassium is often referred to as the blossom or seed nutrient.

SECONDARY NUTRIENTS

Calcium is a component of the cell wall. It is necessary for cell division and elongation. Calcium acts as a cement to hold cell walls together and to hold one cell to another, building tissue.

As Ca is not translocated in appreciable amounts, symptoms are found first and most severely in the youngest leaves or crown of a plant. In severe deficiencies the growing part of plants may die. Plants deficient in Ca may have very poor root growth and damaged roots making them very susceptible to infection by bacteria and fungi.

A delicate balance in Ca is necessary in plants. A deficiency may create a toxicity of aluminum, boron, magnesium or potassium.

Magnesium is the key element in the chlorophyll molecule. It is often called the "companion for phosphorous" as the two combine, facilitating their movement to their proper site in a plant for utilization. Magnesium is necessary for amino acid and fat synthesis. It also affects the viability of seeds.

Magnesium is readily translocated so symptoms will be found in the oldest leaves first. Deficient plants may show marginal chlorosis or chlorosis may appear as yellowish blotches on a leaf. Damaged leaves often show a yellow, orange or red pigmentation.

Sulfur is needed for the formation of new cells and chlorophyll. Sulfur is a component of certain amino acids which are found in most protein molecules.

Symptoms of S deficiency appear much like those of N. deficiency. Plants are chlorotic, spindly and grown poorly.

MICRONUTRIENT

Iron, although needed in very small amounts, is most essential to the health of plants. Iron functions as a catalyst in the formation of chlorophyll. It also acts as an oxygen carrier within the plant. In acid conditions iron is readily available but under alkaline conditions iron is held in a form not available to most plants.

Deficient plants show symptoms in the youngest tissue first, as iron is not readily translocated within the plant.

The first signs of a deficiency appears as a pale green color of the tissue between the leaf veins while the veins themselves remain green. Under severe deficiency entire leaves or even an entire plant will become yellow to almost white and the leaves may begin to die from the tip back.

Manganese activates enzymes involved in chlorophyll formation. Symptoms appear in the youngest leaves first and look much like iron deficiency with yellowing between the leaf veins. Sometimes brownish or blackish spots may occur along a leaf. The tissue in the spots may eventually die causing dead spots or streaks between leaf veins.

Zinc deficiency may cause conditions called "little leaf" and "rosette." These conditions are the result of abnormal tissue growth. Leaves may become twisted and may have necrotic spots within the leaf.

Copper deficient plants often have leaves which are dark green in color and have their margins rolled up. Flowering and fruiting are curtailed.

Boron deficiency may be seen as damaged plant terminals. Tissue may appear hard, dry and brittle. Leaves may become distorted and the stems may be rough and cracked. Corky ridges or spots may appear on the plant stem.

Molybdenum deficiency will appear as a chlorosis between leaf veins. Leaves often appear mottled and their margins tend to curl or roll up.

Chlorine deficiencies apparently do not occur naturally. Only artificially induced deficiencies have been observed in plants.

When all of the above information has been digested you may want to go to the following key to plant-nutrient deficiencies and try your hand at identifying some plant-nutrient problems.

To use this key read 1a and 1b. Observe your problem plant and see which of the statements your plant fits. Then proceed to the next couplet of statements as directed by your choice (1a or 1b). Continue in this manner until a statement indicates the specific nutrient responsible for your set of plant symptoms.

Key to Plant-Nutrient Deficiencies

- 1a. Problem effect is general on entire plant, or are confined to older or lower leaves. 2
- 1b. Problem effect is localized on younger (terminal) leaves or plant. 6
- 2a. Problem effect general on entire plant; lower leaves shows yellowing and drying up (firing). Acute stages develop reddish to purplish color on lower leaves 3
- 2b. Problem effects localized, appears as a loss of green color or mottling (chlorosis). May have dead (necrotic) spots on lower leaves. Very little if any drying-up of lower leaves. 4
- 3. Color is faded, beginning with tips and margins of leaflets until all foliage becomes a lighter green than normal. Over time, the color may fade to pale yellow. In extreme cases margins of lower leaves become devoid of chlorophyll and curl, sometimes the leaves will "fire-up". Stunted growth and defoliation are characteristics of prolonged problems Nitrogen
- 3₁ Foliage crinkly and dark green. In acute cases lower leaves become purplish. Plants stand stiffly erect. Leaflets, leaf margins and petioles take an upward direction. Leaflets are often cup-shaped. Leaves fail to expand to normal size. With acute deficiency growth is

- seriously affected Phosphorus
- 4. Foliage darker green than normal. Leaf reduced in size. Internodes short. Plants have a humped-up, recurved appearance. Foliage becomes crinkled and veins become sunken. If prolonged the deficiency causes a slight yellowing of the leaves, then a bronzing develops from the tips of the plant. Plants become weakened and are more susceptible to disease organisms Potassium
- 4₁ Lower leaves lighter green than normal. 5
- 5. Chlorosis begins at tips and margin of leaves and progresses between the veins toward the center of the leaflet. If prolonged the tissue between the veins is filled with brown and dead areas. A definite bulging between veins and thickening of the leaves occurs. Effected leaves are brittle. Magnesium
- 5₁ The lower leaves are chlorotic and may develop grayish-brown to bronze irregular spots. This usually occurs first on leaves mid way into the center of the plant (midway up the stem) but will eventually affect most of the plant. Spots become sunken and the tissue eventually dies. Leaves may be small, thick. Spots may develop on leaf petioles and stem. Margins of leaves may curl upward. Zinc
- 6. Unusual distortions at the tips or bases of young leaves making up the terminal bud. Terminal bud dies. 7
- 6₁ Terminal bud remains alive. Chlorosis occurs on newer leaves. Chlorotic leaves may have spots of dead tissue. Veins light to dark green 8
- 7. The young leaves of the terminal bud are lighter green than normal. The lighter color is more pronounced at the base of the leaves. Stem tip may die or have distorted growth. Leaves become thickened and curl upward. The leafstalks become brittle. Purple coloration may develop. Tips and margins of leaves (especially lower leaves) die prematurely Boron
- 8. No pronounced general or uniform yellowing of the leaves. 9
- 8₁ If chlorosis is present it is only slight and uniform through out the leaf. 10
- 9. No pronounced chlorosis. Young leaves become limp and remain permanently wilted. Terminal leaves wilt as flower buds are being produced. Tips of leaves dry up and turn brown if deficiency persists Copper
- 9₁ If leaves turn yellow it is a slight, general yellowing similar to nitrogen deficiency and leaves do not dry up. Growth is stunted. Some spotting of leaves occurs in advanced stages of deficiency Sulfur
- 10. A slight uniform chlorosis on young leaves. Tips and margins of leaves remain green longest. Principle veins retain normal green color. Tissue gradually becomes pale yellow, almost white in extreme cases. No dead spots are found in leaves Iron
- 10₁ Leaves become lighter green than normal between the leaf veins. This is most pronounced in the center of the plant. These areas may become yellow to white in severe cases and may develop small brown spots. The outer leaves are the last to be affected. Manganese

A Report on Growing **African Violets** *from* **Commercial Seed**

by K.C. Arceneaux • Blackburg, VA

Whenever I look at an African violet seed, I am respectful of the complexity of the genetic coding that is contained in such a tiny package, a seed smaller than a grain of pepper and barely visible without magnification. I am now hybridizing my own violets, but in preparation for planting the seeds from "home-grown" pods, I wanted to refine my technique, and therefore I practiced on commercially produced seed. I have now made four attempts (with varying success) in growing purchased seed, and would like share my experiences, and to report on the quality of the plants obtained in this way. I have grown seed purchased from the Park Seed Company and from Tinari Greenhouses, and have noticed some interesting differences in the plants resulting from these seeds.

I feel that there have been improvements recently in the quality of seed obtained from commercial sources, because the plants resulting from the first seed I planted were very ordinary, in comparison to the later crops I have grown. I grew violets from seed several years ago, which were ordered from the Park Seed Company catalog. I was not yet committed to growing violets "seriously" then. I planted the seeds, somewhat carelessly, in potting soil, I covered the container with plastic wrap, set it under some shop lights and then forgot it completely. It was probably months later that I thought to look in the container. (Yes, months. . . I was VERY busy, with a two year old daughter, and I was in the process of finishing my doctorate.) When I eventually remembered the African violet seeds, with a pang of guilt, I was quite surprised to find any living plants. There was a healthy looking crop of algae, and six sturdy African violets plants – plants that I assume were the hardiest of the crop; all the others having been overtaken by the algae. I potted them up, and all these plants grew to blooming size and beyond. I still have them, or their offspring, even though their quality was not stellar. All but two were blossom-droppers, and those two have nearly identical foliage and double purple blossoms – plain, but

floriferous, and very forgiving of neglect. In addition to those, there were two trailers, one with small purple stars with Geneva edges, and one with small, fuchsia colored pansies. There were also two plants with single, pink pansies, and one of these two is possibly the ugliest violet ever grown. (My daughter named it "Yucky.") It has grayish green, very hairy leaves; it is quite large (or would like to be, if I permitted it), with wide gaps between the peduncles, and it has only one, or at the most two, blossoms per peduncle. The blossoms drop after only a few days. However, this plant is nearly indestructible, and I have resigned myself to making room for it.

My second effort at seed growing was also less than commendable. These were also Park seeds, purchased in 1996. I had placed the container of recently germinated seedlings on a window sill on a cloudy day (I had not yet acquired a Flora Cart). The clouds lifted; the rest of the day was hot and bright. The little guys cooked in their plastic-wrap covered container. There were no survivors. However, my seed-growing adventures were not over. Some weeks later as I was cleaning out the cupboard where I keep vegetable and garden-flower seeds, I discovered the empty package of violet seeds and tossed it out. My daughter, Robin, rescued the packet from the trash and said, "There is still something in here!" At first I didn't see them, and then I did – tiny specks that could have been dust clinging to the sides of the packet. To humor her, I planted them. There were about twelve seeds, and twelve plants germinated and were subsequently grown to blooming size. These plants seemed like little miracles to me, and I have followed their progress closely. They produced some interesting plants that I will want to keep in my collection.

Since my first two violet-seed disasters, I have revitalized my hobby, and now have three plant stands and am giving my plants the attention they deserve. By now, I have grown seed from both Park and Tinari Greenhouses, and would like to describe some of the differences I found in the plants that resulted from these seeds. The Park seed

was called "African Violet Fantasy Hybrid" seed, and from Tinari's I purchased "Variegated African Violet Seed". I am also growing a crop of 72 miniature seedlings from Park, the "Fantasy Teacup Violets."

A phone call to the Park Seed Company revealed that their African violet seeds are produced by Ron Nadeau, who also supplies many growers who specialize in mail order violets and supplies. I was able to interview Anne Tinari by phone, about the Tinari seed. Mrs. Tinari was most gracious and took time out of her busy spring schedule to answer my questions. She informed me that the seed sold by Tinari is a mixture of seeds hybridized at the Tinari Greenhouses, and also from suppliers of seed. She emphasized the importance of following the sheet of instructions included with the violet seeds, and said that most crop failures are caused by failures in following the directions carefully, or from being impatient. Some violet seeds will germinate after ten days to two weeks, but some take considerably longer. Concerning hybridizing, she said that although many improvements in violets have come about as a result of hybrid crosses, not nearly enough credit has been given to sports (mutations) in producing many of the dramatic changes we have seen in violets over the years. An example she gave of the importance of mutations was the 'Lillian Jarrett', or mosaic, variegation. The original plant had been offered by Tinari Greenhouses for a number of years when it mutated to the marbled type of variegation we now know as 'Lillian Jarrett' variegation. Vegetative propagation (putting down a leaf), subsequently reproduced this mosaic variegation, a trait that has been very useful in hybridizing. 'Tommie Lou' variegation is the best known type of variegation, and also originated in a sport, from the violet 'White Pride'. Tinari Greenhouses still carry 'Tommie Lou', and I have it in my collection; it is a beautiful plant.

The Nadeau standard seedlings I have grown have thicker, juicier looking petioles and foliage than the Tinari plants; characteristics I have seen in some Optimara or Ultra Violet plants. The colors can be wild! Of the twelve surviving plants from my seed-starting disaster, there was a chimera, another with fantasy edging that may or may not be chimeral (vegetative propagation will settle this question), and another is pink with wine-colored glitter, and very unusual fantasy markings. The chimera is a white star with well-defined pinwheel spokes in hot pink, with numerous purple fantasy dots and dashed lines in the pink. Unfortunately, the blossoms drop, as is the case with many chimeras, although I suspect that this is not due to any genetic characteristic linking chimeral blossoms with single, blossom-dropping traits, but simply because chimeras are relatively rare and many have been registered that would not have been had they been more usual in their color-pattern.

The fantasy-edged plant from the Park crop is spectacular — also a white star (semi-double, stick-tite) with a wide edging in rose, pink, and purple splashes — a real carnival of color. It looks like a more colorful version of the Optimara plant, 'Harlequin'. This plant is a consistent bloomer, and has not been out of bloom since it first began to put up flowers. The plant with the fuchsia blossoms and unusual fantasy markings, I named "Calligraphy," although I don't intend to register it, because the blossoms drop. The blossom color is exotic — raspberry-pink with a wine-colored, glitter overlay, darker at the eye. Each blossom has one, or at the most two, splashes of purple fantasy in broad, tapering strokes, as if they had been made with a calligraphy brush. It is fun trying to guess where the splash will be on each blossom as it opens.

Not all of my 45 Tinari seedlings have bloomed yet, but already I can see that they are very different in character from the Park seeds. While the Park plants are robust, even chunky, the Tinari plants are elegant and refined, although equally vigorous. Most of the plants have 'Tommie Lou' variegation. Some have red-backed leaves, and some white, and while most of the plants have foliage edged in white, some have pure-white or pink markings throughout the leaf, which makes them look like they are woodland plants in dappled sunlight. The rosettes of almost all of these plants shape easily and symmetrically. Some of the plants are quite large, with what my daughter calls "pancake" foliage — very broad, flat leaves.

The first two Tinari plants to bloom had delicate, unusual colors, although the colors of their blooms are not easy to describe, except to say that they are smoky, transparent (rather than opaque or dense), reddish purple (one of the two has slightly darker color). The color is not uniform, but blends as if water had been dropped onto water-color paint and had left lighter halos. The "fade color" of one of these is particularly compelling in that it begins as a dark plum hue and lightens to a soft, smoky lavender. Both of these plants are floriferous and hold their flowers well above the foliage. The foliage shapes into impeccable rosettes. The first plant to bloom was a blossom-dropper, which is not really a disappointment because it will be a challenge to use the plant in hybridizing to see if I can reproduce the color on a double or semi-double blossom. The second plant has stick-tite pansies over nicely variegated foliage.

Most of the Tinari plants that have bloomed for me to date are double or semi-double and do not drop their blossoms, while a third of the Park plants that I grew in the most recent batch are blossom-droppers. Most of the Tinari plants have plain leaf-edges, and a few of them have slightly wavy foliage. Half of the Park plants have ruffled or wavy leaf edges.

In the group of Tinari plants there was a spectacular

semi-mini amongst all of the standard sized plants! It has light green, nearly "hairless" foliage, and sweet little white blossoms (stick-tite pansies) with bright blue edges. As the blossoms mature, the white color gradually darkens to a light, purple/blue blush. It is very floriferous. Another Tinari plant has white, single, stick-tite pansies over lightly feathered, variegated foliage. This plant is a classic, with crystalline-white blossoms. It looks like a fresh, forest perennial, not a tender house plant, and it, also, is quite floriferous. There is another that is quite striking, but is a blossom-dropper. It is a *very* large, hot-pink star on a symmetrical rosette of medium green with white variegation.

When one grows from seed, whether from commercially produced seed or from one's own pods, there is always the chance of producing something different from what can be obtained from sales' rooms or catalogs. One of the Tinari plants may be such a plant, because it is so unusual. It is a small standard, with quilted, spooned leaves and striking edge variegation. Because the leaves are cupped upward, the variegation actually looks like a border of white lace. The spooned foliage seems to be holding as the plant matures, as does the dramatic variegation. This plant took quite a long time to bloom, but was worth the wait. The blossoms are double, ruffled white pansies with fringed edges of lime green, and are in perfect harmony with the light green, "lacy" foliage.

Even though most of the Tinari plants to bloom so far have had purple blossoms (purple being a dominant color, genetically), the variations have been intriguing. One is a dark purple double flower with rust-red petal tips. This unusual coloration is accentuated by the fact that the petal lobes are sharply pointed. The reverse of the blossom is nearly white and as the petals unfurl they look like scrolls of white paper unrolling. The white petal backs darken to lavender as the blossom ages. It could be said that in comparison to the Park seedlings, the Tinari plants are more classical and refined, many with the same neat, heart-shaped leaves and pure white variegation as "Tommie Lou". The Park seedlings have more highly-saturated (brighter) color, some with dramatic fantasy; they have thicker plant-substance, but some of the growth patterns are unruly, either bunched in the centers or with petioles that twist.

One thing that I have noticed in these seed-growing adventures is that the plants that are of good quality (with symmetrical growth patterns and stick-tite blossoms, and are floriferous) are as good as many I have seen offered in the catalogs, and many have valuable characteristics, even though the blossoms may not be particularly "different." For example, there is the plant (from my second attempt at growing Park seed), that I have informally named 'Sprite'. 'Sprite' has single/semi-double, dark purple, ruffled blossoms, slightly pointed on the tips, and lettuce-green

ruffled foliage. If I were to describe this plant's personality in human terms, I would say that it is both exuberant and reliable. Unlike many plants with ruffled leaves, 'Sprite' has a well-behaved rosette that arranges itself in careful layers without the need for "tinkering" to achieve perfect symmetry. The flowers are not exceptional – but the contrast between the light green foliage and the very dark blossoms is dramatic. This plant blooms continuously and joyfully, instead of popping out a blossom now and then, or blooming all in a rush and then retiring to rest. Its frills and ruffles are almost like a silly quirk, or a sense of humor.

And then there is one Park seedling that I do plan to register, if it blooms true through the three generations (it has one to go). This one will be 'NRV Ice Storm', the NRV standing for New River Valley, the region in Virginia where I live. A catalog description of this plant might read: single/semi-double stick-tite, white pansy, crinkled edges, lavender shading, darker at the eye, with a fine edging of lavender and then a fine, crisp Geneva edge occasionally blushed with green; light green, pointed, quilted foliage. However, this description doesn't do the plant justice. In its first blooming it averaged eight or more blossoms per peduncle, and it puts up many blooms simultaneously until it is covered with a cloud of blossoms that nearly obscures the plant. It has bloomed continuously since it began. The blossoms have substance and are long lasting, and the color is gorgeous. The lavender shading looks transparent, blending out in veins of lavender to nearly white, and then repeats itself in a dark band of lavender at the petal edges. I grow two other plants with pansy-flowers of white and lavender, and neither compares in floriferousness, longevity of bloom, or subtlety of color.

Then there's "Fatso." My daughter tends to name these seedgrown violets, usually with a nick-name that sticks. Fatso is a plant I would like to keep in my collection, because it has many of the characteristics I look for in a quality plant. It has substantial bluish purple blossoms with a strong Geneva edge. The blossoms are double, but in an unusual way, in that some of the flowers have perfectly overlapped petal lobes, as though one flower were superimposed on another. When 'Fatso' opened its first bud, Robin said, "Look, it has a double chin!" Hence the name "Fatso."

In one of her articles about miniature violets, Pat Richards described a perfect rosette as being like melting butter, where the leaves flow together to make a continuous impression of foliage, rather than an accentuation of individual leaves. 'Fatso' shapes this way effortlessly, with olive green, pointed, lightly quilted leaves. It is plant I would give to a beginner, because it is not touchy and tolerates occasional neglect, and it blooms almost continuously.

And then there are the Park minis. I was quite satisfied

with the results of the (recent) Park crop, and the Tinari crop produced some fine plants that I will want to keep. However, the Park minis were disappointing. The seeds were fresh and the plants vigorous, but every one to bloom so far has been a blossom-dropper. In color, a bright fuchsia seems to predominate, although there have also been some whites, lavenders, and one or two bi-colors. Most of the blossoms have been quite ordinary single pansies.

Even though the Park minis are blossom droppers, there are a few in the batch that are interesting enough for me to want to keep in my collection. One of these has lavender bell-shaped blossoms with darker fantasy splashes, and another has unusually formed flowers. It is a bright pink bell, with deeply scalloped petal lobes, resembling fringe. I haven't seen this form before in a violet, and would like to try using it in a hybridizing experiment. Five of this batch have nicely shaping girl foliage. Among the crop, there seem to be at least two micro-minis, one of them having leaves that are a scant half-an-inch in length. The rosettes of these plants are quite well behaved. Only one of the two has bloomed as yet, and it is one of the most interesting of the group. It has white pansies (droppers) with purple/blue edges on some of the blossoms, while others of the flowers are entirely purple. Also in this group are two that appear to have variegated foliage, of a type I have not seen before. They are a light lime-green streaked with a much darker green, and I am hoping that the variegation holds into these plants' maturity, and through subsequent generations.

My seed-starting method is fairly standard – I use peat pellets, the kind that come in a plastic netting, and a lidded deli container. The peat pellets are moistened with hot water and the excess water squeezed out until the peat is crumbly, but not saturated. It is spread evenly in the deli container, which I have washed well with hot water and soap. The seeds are shaken gently onto a sheet of white paper that is creased in the center to make a trough, and then the seeds are gently tapped onto the surface of the peat, and distributed as evenly as possible. The container is then labeled, including the date of planting, and placed under lights (not in sunlight, however) in a warm spot. I do

not usually have to open the container again until the seedlings are ready to prick out into community pots, where they grow on until large enough to pot up individually. A word of caution (and a thank you to Dr. Jeff Smith for including this word of caution in the seed-growing instructions he provided in response to a question I asked on the "Gesneriphiles" discussion group, on the Internet); do not fertilize the tiny seedlings. Fertilizer, when the seedlings are still very small will produce algae, which can smother the plants. When the seedlings are growing well in their community pots, I begin to feed them with a diluted fertilizer.

I feel that growing from seed can be rewarding, for several reasons. First, it is a relatively inexpensive way to add to a collection, and I have found that plants grown from seed take about the same amount of time to reach blooming size as do plants obtained from vegetative propagation – putting down leaves. I think that growing from seed is a wonderful way to build confidence about growing African violets in general, and to gain respect for the vitality of these terrific plants. When plants are grown from seed, there is the thrill (and insecurity!) of knowing that you have unique plants that do not exist in any other collections (it is always wise to share leaves if you think one of your seed-grown plants might be something special). Whenever one plants from seed, there is the chance that the results will add an intriguing new trait to the African violet fund of genetic material. And my own word of caution – please try to refrain from registering any plants that aren't truly improvements on existing plants, or the Master Variety List will become too cumbersome to be useful. Even though an unregistered plant cannot be entered in shows, it still can be shared and enjoyed. And finally, probably the most compelling reason for growing from seed is because of the mystery of it all, in the knowledge that you have nurtured something beautiful from a tiny speck of a seed that contained within it a miraculous complexity, one that produced blossoms of a particular shape and color, and leaves with specific textures and shapes. You will always have a special connection to a beautiful plant that exists because you nurtured it to a healthy maturity.

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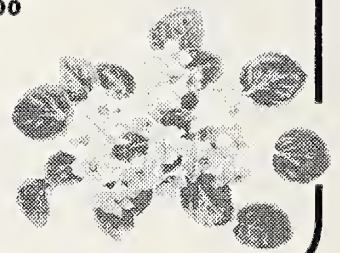
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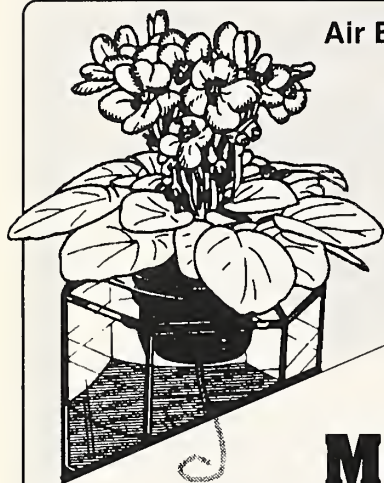


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15 UNIQUE DESIGNS, 3 INDIVIDUAL SIZES, SOUTHWESTERN, COUNTRY,
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**In a recent letter from Mrs. Ramona Donnell, Awards
Chairman for the Missouri Valley AVC she said,**

"... I used your fertilizer exclusively on the 7 plants
that I took to show and I received 7 Blue Ribbons, 6
Best in Class and 1 Judges Special Award. I also won
best other gesneriad, Best Mini and 2nd Best Mini in
show. After the awards were announced, everyone
was most interested in how I had used Dyna-Gro.

In the past I have grown plants that won blue
ribbons but not the quality of these plants.

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Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited
habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rain-
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Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

*The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund
is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat.
You can play a critical role.*

Friend (*Rafiki*) of Saintpaulia - \$10

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AFRICAN VIOLET LEAF SUPPORTS

5 Sizes

6" fits up to 3" pot
9" & 12" fit up to 5" pot
15" & 18" fit up to 8" pot

made of leaf-green plastic, fits any type of pots
send stamped, addressed, long envelope
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**Specializing in Fredette, Bryant & Wrangler's.
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Fredette's "Allegro" is now available to
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Minimum purchase is one case of 12,
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BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS AND OTHER GESNERIADS FROM GARY & PAT DUNLAP

Assortments	Leaves, Cuttings or Rhizomes	Starters
10 Standard	6.95	21.95
10 Miniature	4.95	17.95
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10 Trailers	4.95	17.95
10 Mixed	5.95	19.95
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Miracle Mix Potting Soil \$2.50/gal

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PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 3" and 3 1/2" round tubs

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
7"	Wh/Gr	RS/PP	7.00	12.70	26.50	48.90	230.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC 3.00 5.00 12.00 20.00 80.00

FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4"	Wh/Gr	No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4"	Wh/Gr	With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
3"	Wh	\$1.75	\$3.40	\$7.00	\$12.50	6"	\$2.75
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10
						9"	6.40

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#1 Durable 25.5" L x 13.5" W x 3 3/16" D No holes	Wh/Gr	\$3.60	\$32.50
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide	4 sq. ft	\$1.60
PLANT LABELS 3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00 4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00		

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
3"	Wh	3.05	23.50	37.50	115.00
3 1/2"	Wh	3.45	24.50	41.25	120.00
4"	Wh/Gr/TC	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh/Gr	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00

MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.00	\$19.00	\$35.00	\$60.00



WATER RESERVOIRS for WICK-WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5"	3.00	12.50	23.00	53.00
To Fit 3-3 1/2"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00
	2 gal.	\$3.50
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00
	2 gal.	\$3.50
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25
JUNGLE JUICE (2-5-4)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$2.00	12 oz./\$3.30
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./\$3.75	2 oz./\$4.75 4 oz./\$7.00

PETERS FERTILIZER

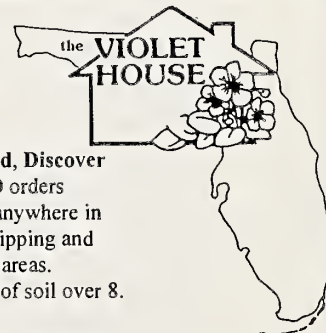
AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	1 lb.	\$6.00
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	12 oz.	\$4.50
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	8 oz.	\$5.50
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	.4 oz./\$2.00 2 oz./\$4.25	
SAFERS INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	8 oz.	\$3.50
	Concentrate	8 oz. \$5.00
KNOX-OUT PT1500A - Aerosol spray	16 oz.	\$7.75

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV
P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466



- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.00 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.50 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

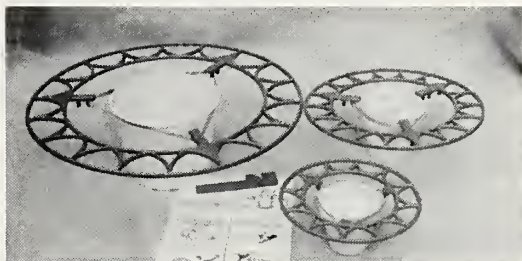
HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM SANDY AND SHIRLEY SANDERS! NEW VARIETIES FROM SHIRLEY'S HOUSE OF VIOLETS

- HOBBS-GREGG** DEAN'S BASHFUL - Double ruffled white blossom with hot pink radiating from center; variegated red backed, scalloped, lightly quilted foliage. SM
- PITTMAN** PEPPY BLUE - Beautiful double blossoms of blue with a geneva edge over pretty dark shiny symmetrical foliage. SM
- HANCOCK** BUCKEYE BALLERINA - Large double pink lavender, ruffled/frilled blossoms with splashes of purple. Medium green and cream variegated foliage. Standard
- WILLIAMS** SUNCOAST BLUE CRANBERRY - Large blue blossom with red overlays and a deeper red center that shimmers above medium green foliage. Standard
- NESS** ORANGE PEKOE - Coral, almost orange semi to double ruffled pansy. Dark green, pink and cream variegated scalloped, red reverse foliage. Standard
- BROWNLIE** ACA'S GEORGENE - Semidouble light pink pansy with red glittered edge. Variegated dark green and cream foliage. SM
- STORK** SHATTERED GLASS - Semidouble dark pink pansy blossom with dark blue fantasy markings glow above dark green, plain foliage. Standard
- ROB'S NEW 1998 VARIETIES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN LEAVES ONLY UNTIL MAY. AT THAT TIME WE WILL HAVE PLANTS AVAILABLE.**

Trailers!! - A sampling: Pat Harris' Tiger tr. and First Robin. Darryl Hoover's White Magic tr. Two trailer's with girl foliage and lovely blooms from Ron Brenton. Space does not allow us to give descriptions of the lovely **new** varieties that we have available from Lambert, Sorano, Decelles, Croteau and others. We also will have some older varieties that are always popular plus what we feel are the best of J. C. Munk's Apache and Rodeos. **You will find these and many others listed in our new catalog - \$1.00.** Plants are \$3.75 each with a minimum of 6 plants per order. Shipping is \$7.00. Over 6 will be 40 cents each.

LEAVES: SHIRLEY'S CHOICE - Current and previous releases-24 \$20.00 or 50 for \$38.00. Current releases-24 for \$24.00. Shipping on leaves - \$6.00 for up to 50. Over this number add 10 cents per leaf.

We will begin shipping March 1 in states where it is warm enough to ship. Other states when weather permits. Please include your phone number with your order as we notify customers of their shipping date. Make checks payable to Shirley Sanders. Our address: 1034 Rayburn Dr., San Antonio, TX 78221. Telephone number 210-923-1093. Sorry, we do not accept credit cards.



LEAF SUPPORT RINGS

Give your violets a spruced up look. Keep the leaves from touching and being damaged by rough pot edges. Excellent for training show plants to perfect symmetry. Made of green plastic. Each comes with a rubber band which is what holds the ring onto the pot. Slides on from the bottom of the pot. Instructions included. Three sizes:

6" Ring - great for minis and young standards. Fits up to 3" pots. \$1.19 each; or \$12.89 per dozen, or \$23.19 per 25.

9" Ring - fits 3" to 5" pots. This is the most popular size. \$1.29 each, or \$13.29 per dozen; or \$24.29 per 25.

13" Ring - fits 5" to 8" pots. \$1.49 each; or \$15.89 per dozen; or \$28.69 per 25. Extra rubber bands (specify which ring size) \$.75 per dozen. **SHIPPING COSTS:** Orders for less than \$10; add \$5.50; Orders for more than \$10 add \$6.50. **WE SHIP by UPS**

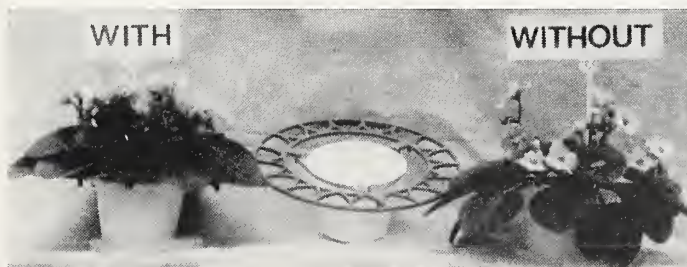
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A free copy of our supplies catalog/violet list will be enclosed with each order. Colorado shipments please add 3% tax. We also have a complete line of growing supplies, lighted plant stands, soils, fertilizers, assorted pots, wicking trays, insecticides, books, seed and more AND leaves or starter plants of over 120 different violets - including minis, standards and gesneriads. Lots of new varieties for this year plus many classics. In business since 1969. Closed Sundays and Tuesdays.

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NEW NUMBERS - Fax 508-540-5427

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PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

3"-3 1/2"-4" round tubs have rolled rims

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
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PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40
4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids,	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
wicks not included)	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender.	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12	25	50
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75		
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00		
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	1.50	8.50	16.20		
	4.75	27.00	51.00		

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
9"	Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
13"	Gr. only	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants

Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;

3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each

White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black

\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00; West of

Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies

Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.

Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax

Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and Phone

Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

PETER'S WATER SOLUBLE FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type	Size / Price	
12-36-14	African Violet Special	4 oz.	8 oz.
5-50-17	Variegated Special	\$1.60	\$3.00
		1.60	3.00
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special	4 oz.	12 oz.
		1.25	3.00
20-20-20	General Purpose	4 oz.	16 oz.
15-30-15	House Plant Special	1.25	3.00
Dolomite Limestone			2 lbs./\$1.75
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse	20 oz.	40 oz.
	No. 6 Medium	1.75	3.25
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	4 qts.	16 qts.
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
Long Fibered Sphagnum Moss		1.75	5.00
		432 cu. inches	\$3.75

TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER

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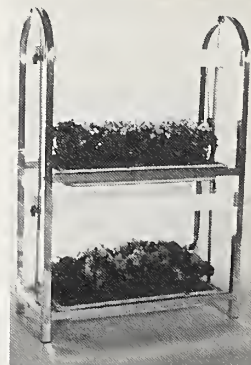
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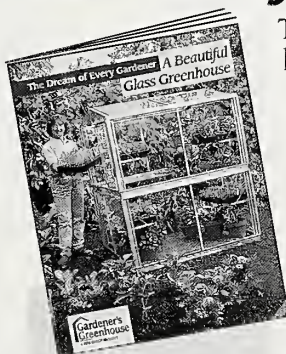


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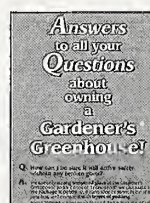
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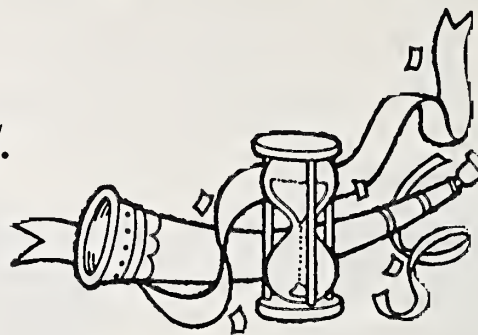
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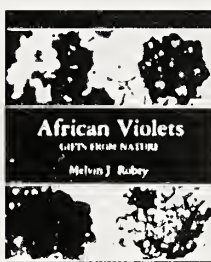


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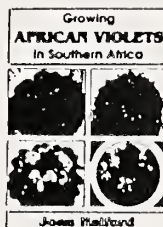
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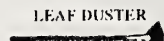
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March • April 1998

Volume 51

Number 2



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MVL NUMBER 6 - All remaining stock will be sold at \$6.50 each postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder.

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OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Email 06JLSmith@BSU.edu

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

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African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

March • April

Volume 51

Number 2

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COVER

Bottom
Knight Magic
mini

Top L
Windsome
mini

Top R
Teen Thunder
semi

1997 Blue Ribbon Winners
from the Display Table of
The Mini Mansion
Hector Becerra
Hybridizer: H. Pittman
Photo Credit: Gus Francisco



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OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
790 Ridgcrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: pwilson941@aol.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: jtcarter@worldnet.att.net

Jane Rexilius, Publications
5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

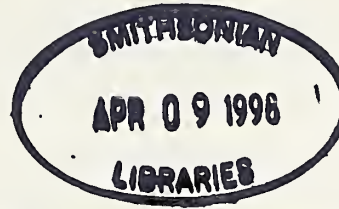
Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.





President's Message



Dear AVSA Members:

While many of our members are still experiencing the effects of cold winter weather, many of us are starting to have an occasional glimpse of spring. With the coming of spring, we will have many opportunities to participate in one or more of our affiliate shows. If you are not able to participate as an exhibitor, I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to attend shows in your part of the country. Be sure to check the most recent listing of coming events in this issue or on the AVSA web site to locate shows and sales close to you.

The last few months have been quite busy for your AVSA Board members and staff. As I reported in January, the new computer software was installed at the AVSA Office in December. Staff members Jenny Daugereau and Tammi Gotcher have learned the new system quickly and are finding many ways to take advantage of the expanded capabilities of this system as they strive to serve you. John Carter, Chairman of the Technology Committee, continues to spend countless hours assisting with this ongoing project. John has made many trips to Beaumont to work with Jenny and Tammi. John deserves an Olympic gold medal for his efforts.

The Internet Committee has also been extremely busy preparing the new AVSA web site for its debut. By the time you receive this, the new web site should be online. The new site includes much more information and many new features. Be sure to read Wayne Donaho's article in this issue to learn more about this new service. Then, boot up the computer and sign on to explore the new site for yourself. The new web site will be updated frequently, so you will want to return frequently to see what's new. Wayne is another one of our volunteers who deserves an Olympic gold medal for his dedication to this project.

During the last few months, we have received numerous requests for information about AVSA from the web site. We expect this to increase with the debut of the new web site. In addition, email to the AVSA Office has included many requests for information about local clubs and about specific growing questions. Several of those who requested information or a free issue of the magazine were contacted by a member of the Board of Directors or referred to a local affiliate for additional assistance. In order for our office staff to make referrals more quickly, it would be helpful to have e-mail addresses for contact persons for each affiliate club. You can provide this information on the web site, or by sending e-mail to the AVSA office at avsa@avsa.org.

The Shows and Judges Committee has completed updating of the *Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*. The printer is now making all of the changes. We hope to have the new handbook available at the convention in Sacramento.

The deadline to receive the Early Bird Discount on your Convention Registration is March 19. If you have not completed your registration, find your January issue of the magazine with the purple pages in the middle, fill out the registration form on page A-13, and get it in the mail today. Be sure to sign up for some of the tours and enjoy the sites and scenery of northern California. With the combination of activities — exciting tours, informative presentations, a tempting auction, a beautiful show — and AVSA friends from around the world, this should be an outstanding convention that you won't want to miss. I hope to see you in Sacramento.

Happy growing,

Esther Edwards Wells

Esther Edwards Wells, AVSA President

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

On the protective white cover this month is an additional Convention Registration Form. Be sure to register soon for our April convention in Sacramento! I am looking forward to seeing you as you purchase items from the AVSA Sales Table. Remember that this year we'll have the new Judge's Handbook available. At Convention Registration, be sure to introduce yourselves to **Jenny Daugereau**, who most of you have spoken with when you've called the AVSA Office. This will be Jenny's first convention, and I know how exciting that experience can be!

Although I didn't have room for more convention information in this issue, I do have information on golf courses, antiques and restaurants in the Sacramento, CA area. If you'd like a copy of any of these, send me a SASE, or your fax number, and I'll get it right out to you.

I was saddened by the death of my friend, **Alma Wright**, in January. Alma was a Past President of AVSA, as well as the first Editor of this magazine. Through her generosity I was able to acquire a scanner for my office, which helps tremendously in doing my job. I very much

enjoyed speaking with Alma, and found her (at 88) a vibrant and informative connection with the early days of AVSA. At the time of her death, Alma was working on an article for the AVM.

A big thanks goes out to the local members of the **AVS of Beaumont, TX**, who have graciously returned to care for the African violet plants in the AVSA office. We missed them all and are grateful for the time they donate to our violets.

In this issue, you'll enjoy a new feature that our contributor and "Thinking Small" columnist, **Pat Richards**, has compiled, "Regional Reviews", page 42. Pat wrote to many notable growers, and convinced them to reveal their secrets for success. This is the first installment; the second will appear in the May/June issue. As we all know, different methods are used by just about every grower, with climate and location making a difference. Through these reviews we are able to learn some of the growing methods from people all over the world. Hopefully, Pat will continue this feature in years to come.

Look through the Souvenir Book
for changes in the
Convention Schedule.

Attention: International Members

Just as this issue was going to press, we have learned that many of our International Members did not receive their Nov/Dec 1997 and Jan/Feb 1998 magazines. All members who may have been affected are being contacted by the AVSA office. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding and patience.

In Memory

PEGGY STAAT

Mrs. Charles (Peggy) Staat passed away in November, 1997. A member of AVSA since 1961, Peggy was a Life Member, receiving the One Year Membership Award in 1976 and the Continued Service Award in 1983. Peggy served AVSA as a member of the Board of Directors, 1989 - 1992, and on the Membership and Promotion Committee from 1980 - 1985.

She helped organize the Albuquerque AVC, New Mexico, in June, 1968, and served three times as President. An AVSA Judge, Peggy was named Master Emeritus. Her dedication to growing and showing African violets was an inspiration to all.



HELEN A. GEISLER

The Milwaukee AVS and the Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs said farewell to Helen A. Geisler in December, 1997. Helen was a dedicated AVSA member, AVSA Judge and Milwaukee Convention Chairman in 1983. She served the Milwaukee AVS as President three times, was a Past President of the WI Judges Council, served as AVSA Representative for both groups and was Editor of the WI Council News. It was a privilege to share her dedication and love of African violets.

Discover California Casual!!

When you read this, our California daffodils will have been blooming for two weeks! Poets say that April in Paris is weather from the gods. In Sacramento, we're told our weather is from El Nino this year. Usually April brings highs of 71 and lows of 46, with less than an inch of rain. El Nino is new to us, too, so you never know what "the boy" has in store for us! Apart from the rain, however, we haven't experienced any "headline" weather.

Spring in the Sacramento Valley is glorious, even when it rains. Bring an umbrella and discover the "layered look" of California casual. Jackets, slacks and sweaters allow for adapting to unpredictable weather conditions. If you're taking tours, the Sierras and San Francisco are generally 10-20 degrees cooler than Sacramento.

Our convention functions emphasize fun, so you can leave the white gloves at home! Enjoy California casual and remember that traditionally April showers bring May flowers! In Sacramento, our flowers are in bloom already!



To ensure that all of your information is correctly printed for Coming Events, please copy the form below and use it to send in your club announcement.

Type if possible, if not, PLEASE PRINT. Also, please copy on a regular size (8 1/2" x 11") piece of paper. Thank you for your cooperation.

month and date(s)

state

club name and event

location (including place and address, city, state)

dates and times

name and phone number for more information

Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

This month I turn my column over to guest columnist Janice Bruns of Illinois. While I've never seen Jan's plants, her reputation among growers in Illinois is admirable. They speak of perfectly symmetrical violets in full bloom, sales plants included! She is actively involved in local, state and regional violet organizations and also runs a small commercial business, Violets ... by Jan.

Perhaps the most inspirational thing about Jan is that 33 years ago she was in an accident which left her in a wheelchair. It is a tribute to Jan that she remains dedicated to violets and accomplishes so much. I must mention her devoted husband, Joe, who is so supportive of her efforts! Thanks to both of you for sharing your talents!

In the May issue we'll discuss designing with the small ones. Take care!

In growing miniature and semiminature African violets there are certain things that I do that work well for me — they may not work well for you — and then there are certain things that work well for *everyone*. First, let's cover the second of those two.

Now, I'm not talking about just growing African violets; almost anyone can do that. I'm talking about growing top-quality show plants. I think there are three factors, which are necessary for you to produce the best specimens you can grow: a good variety, consistency in your growing conditions, and a bit of your time.

Start out with a good variety. I'm excited about the beautiful blossoms that the hybridizers are giving us today, but when I look at a plant what *really* impresses me is the foliage. I love to see those flat-lying leaves, overlapping and distributed symmetrically. And guess what: so do the judges! Don't get me wrong — you need a plant that produces *abundant* blossoms, but while beautiful flowers might tend to sway a judge, the only thing that counts when point-scoring is that it is blooming true to its description. Go for the foliage first. Here symmetry is most important, and that includes leaves that overlap so that you can't see any spaces between them when viewed from the top. Then look for quantity of bloom. Here a good guideline to use is the number of blooms per stalk — try for at least six, but that's negotiable if the blossoms are large. Once

you have a plant with symmetry and floriferousness, then you can look for the "pretty" plant.

After you choose your prospective show plants, the most important thing in growing them is to provide them with the soil, light, watering method, fertilizer, etc. that works best under *your* growing conditions. But whatever you do, make sure it is *consistent*. Any changes will show up in the mature plant as culture breaks, where one or more rows of leaves will appear different from other rows, either in color, size, or growth pattern.

Some growers like to "rotate" their fertilizers, feeling that any one fertilizer doesn't provide everything the plant needs. A better idea might be to mix the fertilizers together and use the mixture consistently. For example, if you use fertilizer A for three weeks, then switch to fertilizer B for a week, instead mix 3 parts of fertilizer A with one part of B, and use this mixture all the time.

You should let a young plant bloom once (to make sure it is blooming true to its description) then disbud it and keep it disbudded until show time. When a plant produces bloom, less energy goes into foliage growth, so each time you let it bloom you will see a distinct gap between two rows of leaves.

Most varieties will grow differently under different temperature and light conditions. With many variegated varieties the amount and color of variegation will vary with

the temperature. So it's important to keep your plant room temperature as consistent as possible. An air conditioner would be ideal, especially if you live in a warmer climate.

The third factor that I mentioned is time. It's one of those things that we don't seem to have enough of, but if you want to produce a really nice show plant you will need to make a commitment. Neglecting African violets for any length of time will almost surely lead to problems. You should have each plant in your hands at least once a week — disbudding it, grooming it, and checking it for problems that you can correct before they get out of hand. And just before the show, spend extra time grooming the plant. It's such a shame to lose points for a dirty plant, which is something that can so easily be avoided.

Now let me tell you a little about the way that I grow my plants. First, you should be aware of how my growing techniques evolved. I have a small commercial business, where I sell to the average home grower. Most of them water their African violets individually from the top or bottom. Consequently I don't use a soilless mix. It would dry out too quickly for them, especially with the minis in their small pots. My soil mixture contains real "dirt" and it's a bit heavier than that of most growers. My formula is four parts Hyponex® Professional Potting Soil, one part perlite, one part vermiculite, and one part Sakrete® All-Purpose Sand. I pasteurize the soil before mixing it with the other ingredients.

You might ask how I can use such a heavy mixture with a constant-watering method. The answer is that I don't — I water each plant individually from the top with a watering wand. This is one case where I vary from what I have just said. A constant-watering method such as wick watering will provide more even and consistent moisture, but it doesn't work with my soil mix. Besides, it forces me to give each plant more individual attention, and that certainly can't hurt.

I use Sylvania Gro-Lux® Wide Spectrum tubes in my light fixtures. Some growers don't use them because they cost too much. I use them because they save me money. I can burn the lights two fewer hours per day than I can with most other tubes, and they last two to three times as long, so in the long run they are actually less expensive.

Over the past year I have switched to Dyna-Gro® fertilizer. My previous fertilizer had changed formulation to add a greater percentage of urea nitrogen, which was becoming evident in a paler, duller leaf color. Shortly after switching to Dyna-Gro® Growth formula (7-9-5) I saw a dramatic difference. But I also began to see some evidence of too much nitrogen — tighter centers, colors a little *too* deep, and sparser bloom. At this time I am using a 50-50 mixture of the Growth formula (7-9-5) and the Dyna-Gro® Bloom formula (3-12-6), which results in a formula of approximately 5-10-5. I am *very* pleased with the results

so far.

I grow all of my plants in 2 1/4" pots. I find it easier to keep semiminiatures within their proper size range by keeping them in smaller pots. I like to use Kord® pots because they have rolled rims.

I set aside a number of plants for a show and sale, and treat each of them as a potential show plant. They are kept disbudded until five or six weeks before the show (depending on the time of year). I switch to Dyna-Gro® Bloom formula fertilizer two weeks before I stop disbudding, and return to my regular fertilizer one week after I stop disbudding. At about this time I start deciding which ones I might show and place them on rings. However, I often change my mind and wind up selling a show plant and/or choosing a show plant from my "sale" plants.

Pest prevention is an important aspect of growing for me. Consequently I rarely need to deal with them. After getting soil mealy bugs 18 years ago, I make it a policy to not allow any new plants in my collection — I just take leaves. As a result, since then I have had to deal with only two cases of thrips and one of cyclamen mites. When I get a new plant, I strip the leaves and soak them in a 1:10 bleach/water solution. After rinsing the leaf under running water, I blot it dry and re-cut the end of the petiole. (It tends to get destroyed from the bleach solution.) I used to do the bleach treatment on crowns taken from chimeras, but that's where I got the cyclamen mites. So, since then I avoid getting any new chimeras. I don't know what I'll do if I find one that I just *have* to have.

My very favorite hybridizer is Hortense Pittman. I order each of her new mini and semimini varieties every year. Most of her varieties grow with a naturally perfect symmetry. Because they have small leaves and proportional flowers, you wouldn't be able to tell them apart from a standard just by looking at a photograph. Some of my favorite Hortense's Honeys are 'Lavender Rage', 'Pat Champagne', 'Sassy Shirley', 'Spring Peach', 'Teen Glow', and 'Teen Surprise' (my all-time favorite). I don't want to leave out the other hybridizers, as I have many favorites from Rob, Sorano, Ness, and others, but Hortense's plants do consistently well for me.

As you have been reminded many times, do what works best for *you*. If what you are doing now gives you the results you want, stick with it. If you have a problem area, experiment with different methods until you find the one that works. There are so many nice varieties out there. Grow the ones that do well for you, and get rid of the others — don't waste your time or shelf space on them. Most of all, do what makes you happy. After all, this is supposed to be fun!

Janice Bruns

Tally Time 1997

Mrs. Anna Jean Landgren
2450 Iroquois Road
Wilmette, Illinois 60091

Tally Time is a summary of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards from the state and local shows during 1997. This year it is based on 109 reports.

Show chairs, please note, the names of winning 1998 varieties should be reported on the "Tally Time Report" form included in your Standard Show Award packet. Please send the forms to Anna Jean Landgren at the above address. They must reach me by November 20th to be counted.

STANDARDS

Total Number of Awards	Number Best of Show	Number Second Best	Variety, Hybridizer, Regist. No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Mini, SM, Trailer or Species
30	7	3	Picasso M. Tremblay #6924	13	7
17	2	3	Party Print M. Burns #7553	9	3
13	2	1	Suncoast Paisley Print S. Williams #7240	8	2
12	1	1	Lela Marie I. Lineberg #5668	7	3
12	1	0	Ode to Beauty Cox/B. Johnson #7677	10	1

SEMIMINIATURES

32	4	1	Ness' Crinkle Blue D. Ness #8136	19	8
27	1	1	Irish Flirt S. Sorano #7577	20	5
21	0	4	Precious Pink H. Pittman #6025	11	6
13	0	1	Ness' Satin Rose D. Ness #8144	10	2
13	1	1	Pat Champagne H. Pittman #7084	7	4

MINIATURES

9	0	0	Mickey Mouse H. Inpijn	0	9
8	0	1	Spring Peach H. Pittman #8413	3	4

TRAILERS

13	2	0	Rob's Sticky Wicket R. Robinson #6467	5	6
12	1	1	Rob's Boolaroo R. Robinson #8053	2	8
12	2	0	Milky Way Trail J. Stahl #7169	1	9

SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

16	2	0	<i>Saintpaulia rupicola</i> S 10b	1	13
12	0	0	<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	1	11
11	1	0	<i>Saintpaulia velutina</i>	0	10

The following table shows the relation between the award winners by geographical areas.

Variety	Total Number of Awards	I	II	III	IV	V
STANDARDS						
Picasso	30	8	5	6	9	2
Party Print	17	0	4	1	9	3
Suncoast Paisley Print	13	6	1	6	0	0
Lela Marie	12	0	1	6	3	2
Ode to Beauty	12	1	3	7	0	1
SEMIMINIATURES						
Ness' Crinkle Blue	32	6	10	8	3	5
Irish Flirt	27	4	5	2	6	10
Precious Pink	21	6	2	3	5	5
Ness' Satin Rose	13	1	4	1	4	3
Pat Champagne	13	4	6	1	1	1
MINIATURES						
Mickey Mouse	9	3	2	2	1	1
Spring Peach	8	0	2	0	3	3
TRAILERS						
Rob's Sticky Wicket	13	3	6	0	3	1
Rob's Boolaroo	12	5	4	1	2	0
Milky Way Trail	12	2	0	1	3	6
SAINTPAULIA SPECIES						
<i>Saintpaulia rupicola</i>	16	0	3	7	6	0
<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	12	3	4	1	2	2
<i>Saintpaulia velutina</i>	11	0	4	4	0	3
NUMBER OF WINNERS	283	52	66	57	60	48
NUMBER OF SHOWS REPORTED	109	17	27	25	22	18

The states in each geographical area, and the number of Tally Time reports from each state are as follows: #I includes Alberta-2, California-13, Colorado-1 and New Mexico-1; #II - Illinois-3, Indiana-2, Iowa-3, Minnesota-3, Missouri-5, Ohio-3, Ontario-4 and Wisconsin-4; #III - Connecticut-3, Delaware-1, New Jersey-4, New York-10, Nova Scotia-1, Maine-1, Maryland-1, Pennsylvania-2 and Quebec-2; - #IV - Arkansas-1, Kansas-2, Louisiana-5, Oklahoma-1 and Texas-13; #V - Alabama-3, Florida-7, Georgia-2, Tennessee-3 and Virginia-3. No Tally Time reports were sent from the states not listed.

Other varieties winning 5 or more awards within an area were: #I Brazos Belle (5); #II Harbor Blue (5) Ness' Blue Velvet (6) Rob's Boondoggle (6) Rob's Lilli Pilli (5) Rob's Scooter (5), and Rob's Toorooka (5); #III - Bud's Melanie (6) Little Pro (6) Phantom Flash (5), and Pixie Blue (5); #IV Dean's Sonata (6) Shades of Autumn (5) Shy Blue (6) Teen Thunder (5), and Tomahawk (6); #V Makin' Romance (5) and Wood Trail (5).

"And the winners are..."



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

CEDAR VALLEY AVC, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Windy Day, Aca's Canadian Wonder, Devil Blues, **Nancy Price**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Heat Wave, Ness' Sno Fun; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Chief; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Heat Wave; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Blue Mars', **Catherine Thompson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Puff, Rob's Boo Hoo, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Barbara Pershing**. Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Shirley Nelson**. Best Design, **Jan Blanchard**.

DELTA GESNERIAD AND AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Painted Sunrise, Tomahawk, Lavender Spray, **Oscar Faoro**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Blackfoot, Shy Blue, Rob's Hopscotch; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Bow; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jeani Hatfield**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddlesticks, Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Copper Cat; Best Semiminiature, Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus porphyrostachys*, **Jackie Kenny**. Best Miniature: Rob's Doohickey, **Leona Faora**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin**.

GREEN THUMB AVS OF FAYETTEVILLE, AR - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Monet, Something Special, Big Charlie, **Mary Hill**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Satin Rose, Little Katherine; Best in Show/Best Trailer, Pink Star Lou, **Charlotte Jenkins**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ruby Pope**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley', **Dawn Sparks**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Donna Johnson**.

LONE STAR AV COUNCIL, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, First Child, Brazos Stormy Skies; Best Standard: Pink Confession,

Richard Nicholas. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: You Old Smoothie, This Bud's Mine, Lela Marie, **Marilyn Hall**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Amethyst, Rob's Tippy Toe; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Honey Blue Angel; Best Semiminiature: Red Bandito, **Patricia Tillman**. Best Trailer: Brazos Belle; Best Design, **Dolores Gibbs**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Onalee McEwen**. Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* 'Zebrina' Hybrid, **Dale Martens**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese**. Design Sweepstakes, **Laura Liggett**.

MID AMERICA AVS, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Twinkle Pink, Texas Teen; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Twinkle Pink; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Richards**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Prize, Persian Lace, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Freda Brooks**. Best In Show/Best Miniature: Hortense's Space Dust; Best Standard: Velvet Brocade; Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail, **Ruby Cox**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia shumensis* 'Brother Paddy', **Grace McCurnin**. Best Gesneriad: *Eucodonia* 'Adele', **Mary E. Gall**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sue Hill**.

MID ATLANTIC AVS, VA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Freedom, Mindi Brooke, Rodeo Showgirl; Best AVSA Mini/ Semi Collection: Frosty Fun, Irish Flirt, Rob's Scooter; Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Best Miniature: Petite Fantasy, **Roger Peeler**. Best In Show/Best Standard: Party Print, **Marie Burns**. Best Trailer: Meek's Katy Baby, **Bluebird Greenhouse**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best Design, **Barbara Peterson**. Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus* 'Black Pagoda', **Sidney Sorano**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carol Van**. Design Sweepstakes, **Beryl Wood**.

MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Windy Day, Bertha,

Continued on page 11

VIOLETS and ROMANCE

by Kyle Coleman
Fort Worth, TX



Award-winning romance novelist Sonya Birmingham holds her namesake and 1997 hybrid, 'Sonya's Passion.' (Photograph by Spencer Coleman.)

The Moonlight African Violet Society of Fort Worth, Texas, will be showing their passion for African violets at their 21-22 March 1998 AVSA judged AV show, "Violets and Romance", at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center on University Drive in Fort Worth. As the title suggests, the theme of the show emphasizes the passionate side of growing African violets.

As this year's project plant, the club selected a brand

new cultivar that I had hybridized. 'Sonya's Passion', a variegated compact standard, is named after my friend, Sonya Birmingham, of Burleson, Texas. As a writer, Sonya has won over two dozen writing awards, including an Ox-Bow Award and an Award of Excellence. In 1994, Sonya won the Texas Communication Contest for her historical romance novel, Almost a Lady, which was also selected as a finalist for the National Communication Contest. Other novels by Sonya include Spiritfire, Renegade Lady, and Scarlet Leaves, her current novel.

I worked very hard to find just the right hybrid for 'Sonya's Passion'. After sorting through over 300 seedlings from 13 different crosses, the pick-of-the-litter hybrid was first shown at the Moonlight AV Society's 1997 show in Fort Worth, Texas. At this informal dedication ceremony, Sonya got her first look at her new namesake, "What a beautiful plant — the name would even make a good title for a novel!" 'Sonya's Passion' won Best in Class for Standard Specimen Plants with Variegated Foliage.

Sonya's next book, Song of the Lark, will be published this year by Leisure Books, a division of Dorchester Publishing. The book will start to trickle out to major booksellers in late May.

As the Moonlight club's 1998 project plant, a picture of 'Sonya's Passion' graces the cover of the club's 97/98 yearbook. With the help of an ink jet printer and a color scanner, the photo is in full color to capture the passionate combination of lavender blossoms with purple tips and a thin, slightly ruffled geneva edge. (Isn't technology grand?)



"And the winners are ..." continued from page 10

Phantom Flash; Best In Show/Best Standard: Bertha, **Shannon Ahlman**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Phantom Flash, Mindi Brooke, Blue is Blue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Scooter, Addie Lou Harris, Beginners Luck; Best Semiminiature: Beginners Luck; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kent Stork**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection; Rob's Voodoo Blue, Rob's Twinkle Pink, Persian Prince; Best Miniature: Persian Prince, **David Harris**. Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail, **Ruby Cox**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Barbara Pershing**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Panther', **Helen Barrett**. Best Design, **Peggy Walsh**. Design Sweepstakes, **Mary**

Ann Bjorgaard.

NEW YORK STATE AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Maggie Lee, Night Fever, Ode to Beauty; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Sno Fun, Wee Be; Best in Show/ Best Standard: Ode to Beauty; Best Semiminiature: Wee Be; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush, **Doug Burdick**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Manitoba, Optimara Ontario, Optimara Van Gogh; Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Conlin Lane**. Best Trailer: Rob's Toorooka, **Ralph Robinson**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Bewitched'; Best Design, **Paul Kroll**. Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichocki**.

Growing A Show Plant

by Doris Brownlie
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

1. SELECTION OF A PLANT:

- a) Does the plant grow well for show? Look in the magazines to see if that variety has won any awards.
- b) Does it produce an abundance of bloom? Do the blooms stand up well in a nice "halo" or "head"?
- c) Is the foliage distributed evenly, with each row of leaves overlapping the row below without gaps or spaces?
- d) Am I familiar with the growing and blooming habits of this plant?
- e) In a variegated plant, do the leaves have enough chlorophyll to produce a good head of bloom?
- f) Is it a good strong plant of the variety, usually the strongest one from the clump? Is it blooming true according to the description in the Master Variety List?

2. TIMING:

For a Spring show, select your plants between October and January, repot them in 5 or 6 inch pots, put them in the right position on the shelf, under the right light for the variety and remove all blossoms and buds. After that, about every 2 weeks, disbud. (Remove the bloom stalks, leaving nubs about 1/4 to 1/2 inch long.) THESE NUBS MUST BE REMOVED ABOUT 2-3 WEEKS BEFORE THE SHOW.

Remove any suckers that form, and remove primary leaves which are completely covered by the one above it. Use leaf supports to aid symmetry.

About 7 weeks before the show, disbud for the last time. Time will vary according to the variety of the plant. Plants with variegated leaves or double blossoms take longer. Some plants bloom quickly. Experience with the variety will teach you this.

QUESTIONS ON GROOMING TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE ENTERING A SHOW PLANT

1. Is my plant in the correct sized pot? The pot should be 1/3 of the diameter of the plant.
2. Is my plant symmetrical like spokes on a wheel, with no large gaps, and no lower leaves completely covered by the one above it?
3. Are there enough blooms on the plant? The number varies according to variety and size, but should be sufficient, according to the size of the plant, to make a pleasing, balanced exhibit.
4. Have I cut off all spent blossoms? Cut them close to the peduncle, with no nubs showing.
5. Have I removed all suckers from my plant? Check on the last day for these as they appear quickly.
6. Does my plant have a neck from the lower leaves having been removed? This MUST be corrected, either by pushing the root ball down in the pot and filling in a little soil, or by removing the plant from the pot, and cutting off a little of the root ball, replacing the plant and filling soil around the neck to the level of the top of the pot. (This should be done at the time of the last disbudding)
7. Have I checked to be sure that my plant is insect and disease free?
8. Have I brushed all dust, soil and animal hair from the leaves with a soft brush?
9. Have I removed all insecticide or mineral stains from the leaves? One teaspoon of vinegar to 1 litre water used with a QTip will work. Even saliva on a QTip will do the job.
10. Does the plant have sufficient water to last the duration of the show? Watering one day before with 1 tsp. "Sturdy" to 4 liters water helps to give the plant strength and adds sheen to the leaves.
11. Are some blooms hidden by foliage? Ease them up slowly & carefully.





Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

IS THIS HOW MY VIOLETS SHOULD LOOK?

A guide to evaluating the everyday appearance of African violets in the home.

When we first started growing African violets (over twenty years ago), our standards for how a nice plant should look were based on the plants we had seen in the grocery stores and at friends' homes. Basically, we wanted to see flowers. Then we subscribed to the "African Violet Magazine" and saw the color pictures of beautiful show-winning plants. Suddenly our standards changed! We began to expect more from our plants. These higher standards were reinforced by the violets we saw at our first show. We were hooked, and ready to do whatever was required to make our plants look as good as those. Was that realistic? Yes and no.

Yes, because good growers can and do grow African violets to the maximum beauty possible for show. No, because on any given day, even the best growers' plants don't look like show winners. Growing for show is a different art from growing for healthy plants at home.

So what are the standards that any grower should have when surveying a violet collection?

RICH GREEN LEAVES

The foliage tells you everything about the health of your violets. Flowering is a bonus, but it is not the mark of great plants.

Every leaf should be the richest green possible for the variety. Varieties that have red-backed leaves will appear a darker green than varieties that have no extra color on the under-side. Even those with light green foliage should have a rich green tone, with no signs of bleached color. Bleaching will give a light green foliage a mint-green color.

Those with darker green foliage may have a copper-colored appearance when bleached.

Why does bleaching occur? Each African violet has a specific amount of chlorophyll in its cells to process light into energy for the plant. This chlorophyll is replenished by the plant as it is used up by the light. If there is more light than the plant can keep up with, the chlorophyll will be depleted, and the foliage will appear bleached. You could blame direct sunlight, which may be too intense. Fluorescent lights that are too close to your plants or are turned on for too many hours can likewise cause bleaching. But it can also occur because plants are under-fertilized. The principle element needed to make chlorophyll is nitrogen. Nitrogen is provided by nature in the air, but the air supply alone will not provide enough nitrogen so that violets can maximize their chlorophyll. That's one of the reasons that we fertilize.

STURDY, HEALTHY LEAVES

All of the leaves should be firm with no wilting. If there is general wilting, there is a problem. It may be that the plant needs water. That's easy. Wilting may also be caused by a root system in serious stress. This stress may be root rot (usually the resulting from overwatering or a too-heavy soil mix). It may be the result of soil mealy bugs feeding on the roots. Other possibilities might be temperature extremes or repotting shock. It is important to determine the cause of the wilting and cure it as quickly as possible.

If the wilting is limited to a few outside (or lowest row)

leaves, then these leaves should be removed. It is normal for the oldest leaves to age and gradually fail. When they begin to soften and droop, they should be removed. It is possible for wilted leaves to begin to rot on the plant, thus providing a pathway for bacteria into the plant. If the leaf is removed while it is still somewhat fresh, the wound left by the removal will quickly dry and seal.

Leaves should have some thickness and strength in an average home collection, but they will not be as thick as leaves on show plants. They should be strong enough to hold themselves in position. If they are floppy, they may need more even care (consistent water and temperature), such as more light, or fertilizer.

NO SPOTS, CRACKS, OR HOLES IN LEAVES

Aside from the foliage looking healthy and green, we should see perfect leaves as much as possible. Imperfections are an indication that there is something lacking in the culture.

Spots on leaves may be residue left from water droplets. Spraying with chemicals can do this, but that can be remedied somewhat by adding a drop of liquid dish detergent (or a sticker-spreader chemical) to the spray mix. The spots may also result from carelessly watering and spattering the leaves. Blotting them dry promptly will eliminate the problem. Condensation on leaves from rapidly cooling air temperatures (especially in high humidity) can cause some spotting on leaf margins. That situation should be avoided as much as possible, since temperature changes can cause far more severe problems in the long run.

Some spots may be caused by watering directly into the soil with water that is either too cold or too hot. These spots typically are less than an inch across and have a veined appearance. They are usually irregular in shape. To avoid this problem, apply water to the soil and root system that is within ten degrees (either way) of the room temperature. Allowing water to stand for an hour or so before watering makes this easy.

Yellowed or brownish spots that go around the outside edge of the leaf usually indicate a build-up of fertilizer salts inside the plant. This fertilizer burn occurs when the plants also get a little too dry. Keeping plants evenly moist will usually prevent the development of these spots, especially when care is taken not to over fertilize.

Cracks in leaves may be the result of rough handling. Leaves don't benefit from being knocked around. Some growers can't resist touching, moving and feeling their plants. If you are one of these, you need to be very careful. Cracks aren't usually fatal, but they aren't pretty either.

Holes in leaves can develop if a water droplet is left standing on a leaf that is exposed to direct sunlight. The water acts a little like a magnifying glass, and "cooks" a

hole or a deteriorated spot. It is wise to keep plants out of direct sunlight whenever they might have droplets of water on the foliage... especially after spraying.

Holes may be the result of disease, often fungal in nature. In that case, there will usually be a wilted area of the leaf that appears before the hole develops. The hole will have a regular smooth edge all around.

If the hole appears very suddenly, it is more likely to be the result of a chewing pest. Roaches, crickets, grasshoppers or even mice are probably the most likely culprits. The hole they leave will have irregular edges (like it was chewed).

EVEN GROWTH PATTERN

One of the most satisfying parts of mastering violet culture is seeing a consistent pattern in the successive rows of leaves. The center leaves (the crown) will be the smallest. The next row of leaves will be slightly larger, and the next larger yet. At about the fourth or fifth row, the leaves will have grown to their mature size, and the leaves in each of the older rows will be about the same size. In most violets, this forms a pattern of symmetry that is very pleasing.

Occasionally, as plants mature from starter size, you will notice some lower leaves that are smaller than the row of leaves above them. These are commonly referred to as baby leaves. Once the leaves above these baby leaves have matured, you can assume the baby leaves have done most of their work and can be removed.

Don't remove healthy leaves that fit the consistent pattern of your violet! Healthy leaves are energy factories and the whole plant depends on their output. If you must remove a few leaves to keep the plant within a manageable size, you may do so, but try to avoid stripping off multiple rows of leaves. It is much wiser to buy plants that will fit into your space than to strip plants back severely to keep them in size.

ONE CROWN PER PLANT

Most African violets (with the exception of trailing violets) should have one single center of growth. This center is called a crown. It is the growing point from which all new growth should be developing.

When secondary crowns, called suckers, begin to develop they need to be removed. Usually the sucker will appear between rows of leaves, or sometimes just below the bottom row of leaves at the soil line. Left to grow, they will cause the plant to become bushy and disorganized. One root system supports the entire structure, and it will be challenged to keep all parts of the plant healthy.

Why do suckers happen? Sometimes it is because of genetics... one of the parents may have had some trailer in its background. This tendency to sucker is consistent and

often irritating.

Sometimes suckers occur because the plant is a little stressed. Violets, like all plants, have a survival-of-the-species instinct. When they are threatened, they reproduce to ensure their survival. Consistent care can cause this type of suckering to be reduced.

Suckers may also appear when planted too deep in the soil. The potting mix should come up to just below the bottom row of leaves. If soil is piled into the space where the bottom leaves meet the main stem, those leaves will act like mother leaves and make babies.

FOLIAGE FLAT AND LEAVES OVERLAPPING

One of the best indications that you are giving your violet enough light, is a flattened "plate" of leaves. When leaves are reaching up, they are trying to position themselves in a brighter spot. Inadequately lit leaves may grow at odd angles, and will often develop long spidery stems. Plants grown on window sills will often develop a tipped appearance as the entire plant tries to angle itself for a prime light situation.

If you choose to grow in a window, it is important to grow the plants right next to the window where the light is brightest. It is also important to turn the plants at least weekly, to keep growth even and reduce the tipping.

Many serious violet growers have opted to grow only under fluorescent light. This light is bright, high quality, and sufficient to encourage the flat rosettes that make violets look so beautiful. Even here, though, you will find that plants grown on the outer edge of the lighted shelves may develop a tipped look unless plants are regularly turned.

NO NECKS

Violets look most beautiful when the bottom row of leaves is just above the soil level. Unfortunately, as leaves age and are removed, the foliage will gradually be further and further away from the soil level. In the space between, an ugly stem or neck will appear. Necks do not belong in a classy collection of African violets!

Necks need to be buried, the sooner the better. It is our theory that if you can see a neck, it is time to repot and bury that neck. Doing it promptly is fairly painless and keeps your violets looking like they should!

If you've never done this, simply lift the violet out of its pot. Cut away the bottom of the rootball. Gently scrape the neck to remove old dried tissue. Now place the plant back into its pot, and fill in at the top with fresh potting mix. Do not pack the soil. Avoid piling soil up into the bottom rows of leaves. Water it and set it aside.

If the neck was longer than the whole pot, you will have to amputate the root system. Again scrape the neck, fill the pot with fresh potting mix, set the stub of the neck

down into the soil, and water it in. Finally, put the repotted plant inside a clear container that will provide high humidity while the stem develops new roots.

CLEAN AND PRETTY

Every good housekeeper knows that clean looks good. Clean leaves are especially lovely. It's good for the plant too. Light is more effective when it is not being diffused by dust on the leaves. Plants really respond to the improved light they get when their leaves have been cleaned.

Leaves can be cleaned by dusting with a soft brush or by blowing if you need to do it fast. Serious cleaning requires washing however. This is done by allowing a tepid stream of water to run across the leaves, avoiding the center crown. Some growers like to spray a solution of dish detergent and water onto the leaves first. After this has had time to work on the dust and spots (a few minutes), rinse the leaves clean. Blot the leaves dry to remove the droplets of water. Allow the plant to air dry before returning it to a brightly lit spot.

Dead blossoms aren't dirty, but violets can't be called clean until old blossoms are removed. Each time a flower fades, it needs to be picked off.

There's another kind of clean too. This clean involves being free of fungus like powdery mildew and of crawly pests. It's too big a topic to cover here, but it isn't clean until this stuff is gone as well.

BLOSSOMS

Should you see blossoms in a lovely collection of African violets? Of course! But not necessarily on every plant. Each variety of violet blooms on it's own schedule. Some burst into heavy bloom and then rest a bit before blooming again. Some keep one or two bud stems up and blooming all the time, but rarely bloom heavily. Some, like many of the rare species, bloom only occasionally.

Folks who grow in window light in our part of the world, learn to expect less blooming during the darker winter months. As days lengthen, springtime often brings on the best blooming of the year.

If you haven't seen much blooming at all, you may want to evaluate if your plants have been receiving enough light. You may also need to improve your fertilizing. Violets seem to need a good supply of phosphorous to flower well. Finally, you may wish to consider if your soil is too heavy. Heavy, packed soils block root development and that will also keep violets from flowering well.

When you set your everyday standards of African violet culture high, you will have healthy, happy plants doing what we want them to do... BLOOMING! Those blossoms are probably the best reward of all for any level of grower.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

What are your favorite shades of flower color for African violets? Do you prefer the pale blues and pinks or the almost rich darker shades? No matter your preference, both extremes of shading are easy to breed for.

There is a gene in African violets that restricts the intensity of the flower color. In the dominant form, the intensity gene (I) restricts the color of the flowers to a fraction of their potential resulting in paler shades of the color. When the plant is homozygous dominant (II), flower color is even more restricted resulting in the pale blues and near-white pinks. When the gene is in the homozygous recessive form (ii), the flower colors will express to their maximum potential, giving the darker shades.

If pale shades are your goal, be sure to breed together plants that have very pale flower colors. The intensity gene should produce many offspring with pale flowers. If darker shades are what you desire, then breed together plants that have dark colors. The offspring should also have very dark colors. If a dark flowered parent (ii) is crossed with a pale flowered parent, the offspring should have intermediate shades because they will inherit one form of the gene from each parent (Ii).

In all cases, the intensity gene is independent of the genes for flower color. For example, you could cross a pale pink with a pale blue and the offspring should have pale shades, probably in pink or blue. As long as white flowered plants are not used, the intensity gene for flower color shades is a very easy one for hybridizers to work with.

Q: *Can you explain how semi-miniature plants appeared in a cross between two standards?*

A: Plant size appears to be a genetic feature where the number of dominant copies of the gene add together to determine the potential size of the plant. Large size is

dominant and smaller size is recessive. The standards used in your cross may carry the recessive for smaller size. When crossed together, a small number of offspring would inherit the gene for small size instead of one or more copies for large size, resulting in semi-miniature plants.

Q: *I recently saw a seedling that was white with a wide mauve ruffle. You have said in your column that edges are dominant, yet the parents of this seedlings were supposedly a solid lavender and a solid mauve. How is this possible?*

A: This sounds like an interesting seedling. I can think of several possible explanations. If only one seedling out of the cross showed edges, you might consider that a mutation has occurred for this one plant. Another possibility is that a pollen grain from a different plant fertilized the egg rather than the supposed parent. If edges were observed for several of the seedlings, you might consider the effect of temperature on colored edges. It may be that one of the parents really is edged, but the temperature of the growing area prevented the trait from being expressed. Also, my model and observations about the inheritance of colored edges may be incomplete or incorrect. I don't know which explanation might be the best one, but I appreciate hearing about this seedling so I can add this observation into my models. It's feedback from readers that enables me update my information and give the most accurate advice I can in this column.

Q: *Is the foliage color linked to the shade of flower color? I've noticed that many plants with dark blue flowers also have very dark foliage while plants with pink or white flowers usually have light green foliage.*

A: Flower color does seem to be linked to the foliage color as you described. It is rare to find a white flowered plant with dark green foliage or a dark blue flowered plant with pale green foliage. However, these combinations do exist, so even if the traits are linked, apparently they can be separated and recombined under some conditions. For most plant breeding purposes, you might go ahead and consider the traits as linked, but be alert for any new or unusual combinations.

Q: *This past winter was hard on my plants because I wasn't able to keep the temperature as warm as I would have liked. Are there any types of African violets that are tolerant to cold?*

A: I'm not as clear about cold tolerance in our hybrid plants, but several of the species African violets are fairly tolerant to cold growing temperatures. Several of the best plants are *S. orbicularis* (both varieties), *S. goetzeana*, *S. teitensis*, and *S. magungensis* var. *occidentalis*. *S. velutina* is also a good choice as long as it is well-drained and isn't over watered. Perhaps hybridizers can use the cold tolerance of these plants to develop hybrids that will perform well in

cooler growing areas.

Q: *I have heard a hybridizer comment that unless a seedling had a high bud count in their first bloom, they didn't keep the plant for evaluation. What did they mean?*

A: The number of flower buds a plant produces is a strongly inherited genetic trait. I suspect that the hybridizer is using bud count as a selection method to screen their plants. If a plant can produce a large number of flower buds when grown under crowded conditions as a seedling, it will definitely produce many flower buds when grown under show conditions. If the plant only produces a few flower buds as a seedling, chances are not good that it will produce a high bud count when grown for show. Since space is usually at a premium for most hybridizers, any plants that don't measure up need to be quickly eliminated to make room for other plants. Apparently this hybridizer won't keep a plant unless it first passes this test of bud count. If high bud count is an important characteristic to be developed into new plants, then this method of screening the seedlings would be a good one.

ATTENTION

We are going to try for the third time to get the scale of points for judging new cultivars right!

It has been called to our attention that the scale of points issued in the January Shows and Judges column is missing 15 points.

Please insert: Color of blossom 15 points.

We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused you.

Bill Foster - *Shows & Judges*

Many THANKS for all the awards that were sent to me for the Sacramento Convention. Your generosity this year has made my job a much easier task. I applaud your kindness! But now I have to say, that if you would like to get a jump start on the 1999 Convention in Houston now is the time to start sending in your awards ... If you are like me, I can't think ahead until the present is behind me. But if you are an early bird, please make your checks payable to: **AVSA Convention Fund**.

Mail them to: **Mrs. Linda L. Golubski**
AVSA Awards Committee Chairman
1416 N. W. A Street
Blue Springs, Mo 64015
816-229-2051 (CST) after 6:00 P.M.

The Name of the Game is the Name

by David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64051

I used to enjoy visiting White Cloud Farm in Carthage, Missouri where peonies and African violets were grown and sold. On one visit I saw a bench full of beautiful young plants, each covered by large, very light pink double blooms. The foliage was light green and quilted.

"What beautiful plants those are, Mrs. Grosvene? What is the name?" With a doleful look in her eyes, the owner replied, "Go ahead and take all you want. I sure can't sell them." Mrs. Grosvener went on to explain that most of her customers were turned off by the name hybridizer Max Maas had given this outstanding variety: 'Agnew.'

As I drove home, I thought of the importance of names from a business person's point of view. After many interviews and research on the subject, I have arrived at the conclusion that naming a plant, or any product, is extremely important in successfully marketing it. Just ask Ford Motor Co. if they would ever again use Edsel as a name for a car.

I contacted Max Maas and asked if, in fact, his outstanding introduction had been named in honor of former vice-president Spiro T. Agnew. "Yes, it was," he replied, "the way I look at it, he was no more guilty of wrong doing than the rest of the politicians."

So I learned from Mr. Maas and others that customers buy (or don't buy) an idea, concept or dream often as much as the product itself. Millions of dollars are spent on Madison Avenue every year in developing names and logos for products that will appeal to the dreams, aspirations and desires of buyers.

If 'Agnew' did not appeal to buyers, regardless of the plant's qualities, then how important is a plant's name? The answer from most hybridizers is a resounding "yes, it is very important." Therefore, the most successful hybridizers have an ear for sound as well as an eye for beauty.

The use of a series name is helpful in identifying a hybridizer. Dr. Ralph Robinson prefaces all his introductions with his less formal nickname, 'Rob.' Likewise, Granger Gardens used 'Granger's,' 'G.G.'s' and 'Granger Garden's' to set their cultivars apart. The 'Wrangler' series name came about not by a tall lanky cowboy, but when hybridizer Winston Smith saw an appealing ad for Wrangler jeans. The name seemed so

appropriate for the southeast Texas grower.

Reverend Charles Blades began hybridizing African violets in the late 1960s and met with only fair success, even though the plants were really outstanding. When he successfully crossed on to 'Tommie Lou' and got variegated foliage, he applied his nickname, 'The Parson' to his new series. The name and variegated foliage were a big hit across the country.

While some series are lengthy, others are shorter, as in the case of Lyon Greenhouses, where Sidney Sorano has given us several angels, including 'Angel Fluff,' 'Angel Lace,' 'Angel Song,' 'Angelic Glow,' 'Angel's Petticoats' and 'Angel-n-Trouble.' Sidney likes to use 'Cinnamon' and 'Snuggles' as a prefix also.

Sidney also brings a little spice to naming African violets as evidenced by 'Big Tease,' 'Careless Moment,' 'Charming Heart,' 'Dolled Up,' 'Dream Lover,' 'Fancy Flirt,' 'Fickle Flirt,' 'Heart's Aglow,' 'Hot Date' and many others.

Another hybridizer carried this trend even further. I once asked Jeannette Domiano why she used somewhat earthy, even suggestive, names for several of her plants. "Oh, I think African violets are very sexy. You know.... the birds and bees. You take the pollen from one plant and apply it to another plant." From this outlook came cultivars named 'Aphrodisiac,' 'Bedroom Eyes,' 'Beguiling,' 'Brazen Embrace,' 'Deep Dark Secret,' 'Easy Love,' 'Forbidden Ecstasy,' 'Kiss and Tell,' 'Makin' Romance' and 'My Wicked Ways.'

Jeannette lived in the New Orleans area and was also influenced by the French heritage of that area. A few examples: 'Aubergine,' 'Belizaire,' 'Betelgeuse,' 'Bienvenu.'

Other hybridizers look to their surroundings for inspiration, such as 'Adirondack Trail' by Lyon Greenhouses, which is located in the foothills of the great Adirondack mountains. Hortense Pittman used the prefix name 'Alamo' for many of her introductions while living in San Antonio, Texas. Ralph Robinson visited Australia and now we have 'Rob's Toonooka,' 'Rob's Willawong,' and 'Rob's Woolloomooloo.'

Ernie Fisher was a very prolific Canadian hybridizer who named many of his varieties after children of family members, customers and friends. This practice was sometimes confusing, as when he used similar names such

as 'Jeffrey David' and 'Jeffrey Thomas.' Then there is 'Adam James' and 'Adam Scott.'

In 1971 Mr. Fisher named a seeding with double rose-fuschia star blossoms 'Elisa Frew' after the woman who manufactured the support rings so popular at the time. Mrs. Frew also raised gorgeous white Persian cats. So, Mr. Fisher named subsequent introductions after her cats. That is how we got 'Juan Tu,' 'Me-su' and 'TuTu.' These varieties were popular with cat lovers.

A few years ago I had a sales table at an AVSA national convention. Shortly after opening one morning, a lady rushed up to me and almost shouted, "Do you have 'Cat's Meow' by June Swift?," "I don't think so, but what does it look like?" was my reply. "Oh' I don't know and don't care. I am a cat person and just have to have it!" she exclaimed, and she went in search of it.

If I knew who she was, I would be glad to tell her about 'Kitten Prints,' 'Kitten Mittens,' 'Dean's Kitten,' 'Kopy Kat,' 'Top Cat,' and 'Kitty Fisher.' Oops, that last one is probably a person.

Alliteration is the repetition of initial sounds in adjacent words or syllables. This device produces pleasant and sometimes catchy sounds and is used often by skilled writers and public speakers.

Using alliteration in naming African violets has effectively been done by Sidney Sorano and Hortense Pittman and others. These varieties almost have a musical quality when spoken out loud. From Sidney came 'Fancy Flirt,' 'Fickle Flirt' and 'Louisiana Lullaby.'

Hortense Pittman has given us 'Blue Blood,' 'Bravo Blue,' 'Dancing Dear,' 'Magic Mood,' 'Misty Miss,' and many more.

Does a mistake ever creep into a hybridizer's list or AVSA registration applications? Yes, occasionally they do, as when a very nice plant with plain leaves and double white blooms was registered as 'Granger's Artic [sic] Mist.'

Sometimes foreign words or names are used to add variety or to honor another culture. The latter is the case when Granger Gardens began using Japanese names such as 'Ayako,' 'Emiko,' 'Hiroko,' and 'Kazumi' to reflect Jim

Eyerdom's wife's heritage.

'San Souci' in French means "without a care," (carefree). When 'Granger's Carefree' sported for me several years ago the name seemed to be a logical choice, and the plant is registered under that name.

Some plant names are direct and to the point, such as 'Red Star' and 'Ruffled Red,' both by Max Maas' which have, respectively, a single vivid red star blossom and a semi-double dark red star with ruffled foliage.

Other names are a little bit more esoteric as in the case of Domiano's 'August Thirteenth,' 'Everdina,' hybridized by Inpijn, and Marie Burns' 'Ocean Eyes.'

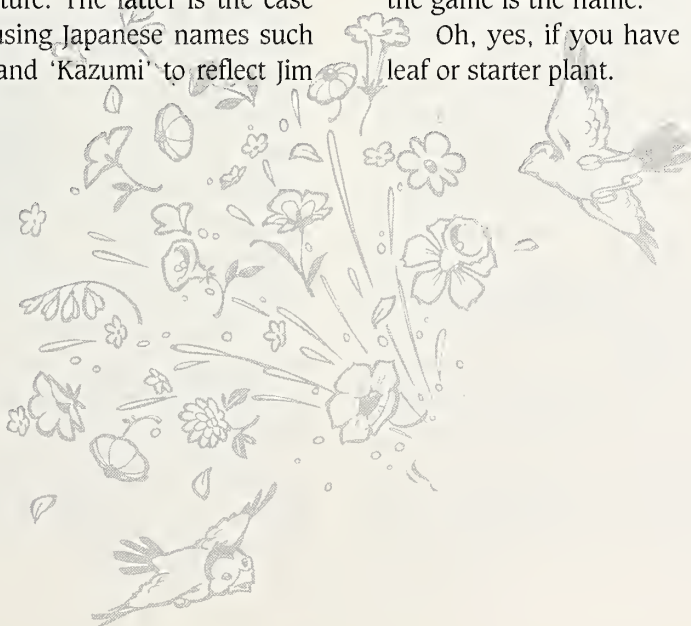
There are those names that do not fit into any of the above categories - they just sound good. How could you not like 'Dean's Frosted Peach' 'Great Big Hug,' 'Apricot Silk,' 'Heavenly Dawn,' and 'Honey Pink.' If you are hungry, 'Blackberry Jam,' 'Blueberry Ruffles,' 'Cherries'n' Cream,' and 'Lemon Cream' are all from Lyon Greenhouses and sound good enough to eat.

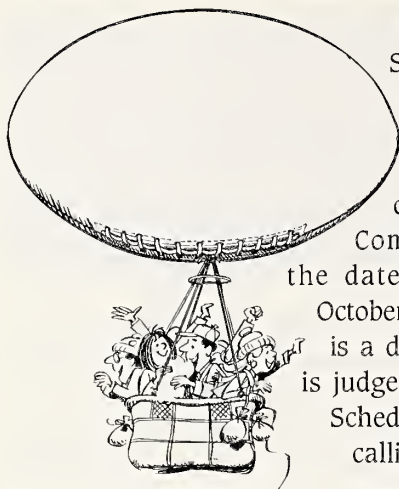
We are greatly influenced by names. Hopefully, they will conjure up certain positive images or trigger emotional responses that motivate us to order plants and leaves. I admit that I have ordered plants based solely on the name. One such plant was named 'Luscious Pink' and it sounded,it sounded so luscious! Then there was 'Delectable' and it sounded very...I think you get the idea.

The 1998 catalogs and lists are ready from your favorite commercial members, and remember, as you read them, that not only did a lot of hard work go into hybridizing, proving and growing of the new cultivars, but even the names were given careful thought and consideration.

The long term success of a variety depends on its appeal to the eye and its performance as a fast and easy grower. The early sales of an introduction, however, is due largely to the reputation of the hybridizer and his or her description of the plant and its name, for truly the name of the game is the name.

Oh, yes, if you have 'Agnew,' I would love to have a leaf or starter plant.





The Albuquerque Saintpaulia Society extends an invitation to all AVSA members to participate in our Fall Design Competition. This year the dates of the show are October 3 and 4, 1998. This is a design only show that is judged under AVSA rules. Schedules are available by calling (505) 343-9031

and leaving name and address on a recording. Our design show coincides with the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, the most photographed event in the world. The Fiesta is Oct. 3 through the 11. Everyone who would like to attend is urged to make hotel reservations as soon possible. Some hotels are completely booked as early as March and every hotel room in town is occupied during the fiesta. If you are interested in the balloon fiesta and our design show but can not quite decide, please e-mail last year's judges, Barbara Elkin; jabar@foothill.net or Pat Richards; patter257@aol.com or Norah Otto; otton@spot.colorado.edu They have agreed to share their adventures here.

HIDE AND SEEK WITH A RESERVOIR

by Maxine Geiss • Fredric, MI

When a plastic reservoir is used to wick-water plants, that exposed container is not the most attractive item on the shelves.

Of course, many variations are available commercially that make attractive decorator additions. For many, a wicker basket serves to hide the ugly container. These can be obtained not only in craft stores, but also at garage sales for a much reduced rate.

Recently, a craft handout shed a new light on decorator approaches to hiding the reservoir. Many colorful fabrics can be used to construct a covering. The following directions are for an eight-ounce reservoir. Two 18" circles of fabric are cut and then placed upside down on each other with the right, or finished sides facing each other. The circles are sewn together around the outside edge with about four inches left open for turning. Clip the seam allowance all around, turn, and press. The opening can be folded under and hand sewn. A piece of lace, rickrack, or other trim can be sewn on the outside of the circle.

Place a sturdy object which is taller than the 8 oz. reservoir on the surface. Invert the reservoir over it. The fabric is evenly draped over the reservoir and secured with a rubber band where the material rests against the opening of the reservoir.

The next step is to stiffen the circle. Using a fabric stiffener (generally available at craft stores), the material is completely sprayed or brushed to saturate the fabric. The fabric is molded by hand to make a ruffled edge. It may be necessary to treat the cover several times until it is stiff enough to stand alone.

Invert the cover along with the reservoir and remove the rubber band. Add ribbon to replace the string to hold

the top of the cover in place. The plant can then be added, and the pot will be partially covered by the frill.

If a different sized reservoir is used, measure the height of the container, double this figure, add the diameter of the reservoir, and add about five inches to determine the diameter of the circle of material.

By using seasonal fabrics, the assembly can be changed for the holidays. It is one way to use lovely African violets as a part of the decor.

A dainty cover to hide the reservoir can be made by stiffening a lace doily in the same manner. This is a good use for those antique doilies that many people have laying around the

house and are not sure how they can be used. They will stay fairly clean so they can be shown off and enjoyed, but are not apt to have coffee, etc. dropped on them. Any bad spots on the doily can be hidden under the folds or put toward the back.

It may sound complicated, but once the first cover is made, more can follow at a rapid pace.





Discover California!

SESQUICENTENNIAL!!!

Hard enough to say let alone spell. Sesquicentennial, Yes that's the word. Thought you would never ask!!!!. Our Sesquicentennial is the 150 year anniversary of the discovery of gold in California. 1848 was the year to remember.

The commotion caused by the discovery of gold at Colma was heard around the world in just a few months. There were no telephones, let alone televisions, and was spread strictly by word of mouth.

The celebration will last for two whole years and will be in place during your visit to Sacramento.

Here are a few things to do and see on your own:

California State Capital: Modeled after the nation's Capital Building, the distinctive State Capital dates from 1869 and has been restored to its turn-of-the-century splendor. Tours explore the architecture and recent renovations, legislative chambers, old governor's office and lush gardens of the 40 acre park; films make your visit

complete. The building stands on Tenth Street between N and L Streets, downtown Sacramento.

California State Indian Museum: This museum displays the rich and diverse culture of California's earlier inhabitants through displays, hands-on exhibits and demonstration areas. At 2618 K Street, on the same grounds as Sutter's Fort, downtown Sacramento.

Crocker Art Museum: Built in 1872, the Crocker Art Museum is the oldest museum in the West. Today, the museum is best loved for its spectacular Victorian architecture, the early California painting collection, Old Master drawings, international ceramics collection and colorful contemporary California Art. 216 O Street, downtown Sacramento.

Leland Stanford Museum: Over a century old, the home of former Californian governor, senator, railroad baron Leland Stanford. Pre-restoration tours are available, and focus on the archaeological search for clues to the house's past and upcoming re-creation of its 19th-century splendor. 802 N Street, downtown Sacramento.

Sutter's Fort: Surrounded by 2-1/2-foot-thick white adobe walls, this is the original site where John Sutter settled in 1839. The entire confines of the frontier settlement have been authentically rebuilt. Self guided tour with radio-wands take you through carpenters' and blacksmith' shops, a bakery, jail, dining, and living quarters, as well a special exhibits museum and visitor orientation. 22710 L Street, downtown.

Towe Ford Museum: Travel on a sentimental journey. bedazzled by brass and chrome headlights, two-toned paint jobs and a nostalgic glimpse of days gone by. View the most complete collection of antique Fords in the World. Over 180 vehicles arranged in chronological order to depict the history of America as it was influenced by the automobile. 2200 Front Street, near Old Town Sacramento.

Wells Fargo History Museums: Two separate museums display hundreds of items including original artifacts, documents, old photos and lithographs, bringing to life the commercial history of Sacramento and Wells Fargo's role in it since 1852. The Capitol Mall location has the original restored Concord Stage Coach. 400 Capitol Mall, downtown Sacramento; also at 1000 Second Street, Old Town Sacramento.

Special meal requests must be made to the AVSA Office at time of registration. Requests made directly to the hotel will **not** be honored.

MEAL FUNCTION SEATING

Reservations received on or **before March 19, 1998** will receive table assignments. **All reservations received after that date will have unreserved seating at meal functions.**

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

A word of apology to any of you who sent stamped envelopes for me to send you a personal reply. I didn't overlook your letter, I was unable to do any writing as I had surgery on my right shoulder in October. Would really appreciate questions that can be answered in the column as I'm scheduled for therapy for quite some time and individual letters are a problem.

Question: *My center leaves of both mature and small plants develop a condition which resembles mite (microscopic examination proves otherwise). Can you explain why when the dry shriveled leaves are removed and the plant is set aside, it develops into a perfectly normal plant?*

Answer: There has been a great deal of discussion about this problem with as many views as there are growers involved. I'm taking my life in my hands even speaking on this subject especially since it's called the 'California Crud'!

The subject continues to come up at various meetings and it's interesting to note that instead of being one problem, three separate factors come under discussion. A number of people have gone to the expense of getting an electron microscope examination to rule out a virus or other disease, so that leaves the other three problems that immediately come up for discussion:

Chloramine, High urea content in fertilizer, & plant stress. Since I haven't had the problem I probably escaped due to the first two factors. I was not caught by the change in water since I draw all of my water hot and let it stand for at least 24 hours and I laid in a 20 year supply of fertilizer in 1995 because my favorite brand was being discontinued. Starting with chloramine, it sounds like many growers were advised it was not being added to their water, which proved untrue and its addition occurred before complete testing took place. One other factor in my favor was offered by a non grower, a chemist that provided this tidbit. You need humus for the break-down of the urea into an element which is available to the plant - I use sifted oak leaf mold as a part of the base for my mix, making urea an



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

available food for my plants. The third factor may have been a combination of the first two, water imbalance and too much urea, causing great stress to the plants. Under stress any slip in cultural or adverse weather condition is immediately reflected in the plants. Most plants in good condition will stand some adversity but if they are already under stress. Unfortunately the growers weren't even aware of the changes that had taken place until they had thrown out many plants with supposed "Mites" in order to protect their collection. Many growers spoke of the miracle recovery of the infested plants when the stress was eliminated (the water COs got their act together).

Question: *A new member asks, what are culture folders?*

Answer: These are invaluable folders with information on African violets to be given to the public and includes a membership application. They can be given out when you put on a show, give a talk or for visitors to your club. They are available from AVSA. All information to secure the folders is on the inside cover of the AVM.

Question: *I used to be able to buy little plant sticks called "Bag a Bug" to insert into the soil to prevent insects in the pot. Since they don't seem to be available, do you believe it is necessary to put any kind of insect killer in the pots?*

Answer: The danger in using any insecticide in the pot is the health risk. You might have a cut on a finger and when your hand comes in contact with the soil during repotting you could have the insecticide enter at this point, especially if for some reason it was necessary to repot soon after the addition of the insecticide. If you do need to use an insecticide in the soil you should consider wearing surgical gloves when potting. The product you mention is not known to me and this brings up the fact that certain supplies are available only in given areas of the country.

Question: *Someone I know has a blooming African*

violet plant that has been in the same pot for 15 years. It is bottom watered, leaving the water in the saucer for 2 or 3 hours. I was told you should empty the saucer after 30 minutes. Which time is correct?

Answer: When someone is having success you don't argue. Each person must determine what works in their environment, but even more important, what do you want your plants to give you? Is excellent foliage, abundant bloom and general show quality your desire or is frequent bloom the year round so you can show off some blooms of fair quality enough? What are the comparative values in your mind of the plants being produced by the different methods? It's your choice of growing styles that make it correct or incorrect for you. Different soil mixes absorb water at different rates so this is also a consideration.

Question: *Is there a technical term for the way a plant leans toward a light?*

Answer: The term is *phototropism*. *Tropism* (Greek: *tropos*; turn) are growth responses to external stimuli caused by a physiological process and are actually the result of plant hormones. This hormone is named *auxin*, after a Greek word meaning "to increase". The side of the stem that is away from the light source accumulates auxin and this causes the cells to grow at a faster rate resulting in the stem bending toward the light.

Question: *Is a mixture of perlite and vermiculite better for puffing down leaves than regular AV potting*

soil?

Answer: Since perlite and vermiculite are sterile products you are less likely to have loss due to bacteria or damping off. Again, there are many people who routinely have excellent results with soil mix. The question might be how sterile their soil mix is and the watering conditions? Over watering with a soil mix could be a disaster.

Question: *I recently received a few plants in the mall (a couple of which were damaged). Another friend suggested I disbud to encourage repair of the foliage. Is this necessary? There are a couple of blossom stalks that have lovely flowers that I would like to keep.*

Answer: In order to obtain the best growth in a new environment you need to remove the buds, broken or discolored leaves, damaged or dark roots, thus promoting new roots and good central growth. You want to encourage "Best" central growth by directing the energy to this area with the removal of all damaged, poorly developed and immature leaves (any leaf that is smaller than the leaves in the row above) as well as buds. When foliage has attained optimum condition it is time for the bloom. This way you protect the plant as well as reaping a nice bloom display. Do protect your new plants by giving it every chance in it's new home. A few days of bloom are not worth the chance of losing a desirable plant.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.



AFFILIATES YOU ARE INVITED

You are invited to join us at the
Affiliate Meeting
Wednesday, April 22, 1997
4:30 - 5:30 P.M.
in Sacramento, California.

Bring copies of your past or current show schedules, yearbooks, newsletters and IDEAS to share. The meeting is open to the President, AVSA Representative, and any interested affiliate member. Join us for a time of
GROWING AND SHARING TOGETHER

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 1 OCTOBER - 1 DECEMBER 1997

Ohio State AVS, OH	\$50.00	"Happiness Is" AVS, Longmont, CO	\$25.00
<i>Towards new fax machine for Beaumont</i>		<i>Towards memorial for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
Georgiana Aboko-Cole, Silver Spring, MD	\$10.00	North Star AV Council, Edina, MN.	\$50.00
Venessa Castleberry, Waco, TX	\$10.00	<i>In fond memory of Caroline Fleisch</i>	
Cincinnati, Ohio AVS	\$25.00	Columbus AVS, Columbus OH.	\$25.00
<i>Donation - Beaumont office new fax</i>		<i>Towards purchase of new AVSA fax</i>	
Springfield Ohio AV Club.	\$25.00	In fond memory of our very dear friend	\$100.00
<i>To be applied towards the new fax machine</i>		<i>Frances Beaver of Shawnee, KS. A great lover of African violets.</i>	
Jack Record, North Bay, NY	\$20.00	<i>A tremendously vibrant, intelligent and kind woman.</i>	
John Sullivan, Danville, VA	\$2.00	Jean Marie Ross, Auburndale, FL	\$15.00
Loveland Sweetheart Violetes Society, Loveland, CO.	\$60.00	<i>In fond memory of Doretha Gill</i>	
<i>Office computer up-grade</i>		Nelly Levine, Arvada, CO	\$10.00
Parmatown AV Club of Ohio	\$50.00	<i>Towards memorial for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
<i>To help AVSA with a new fax machine</i>		Betty Margetts, Longmont, CO	\$5.00
Pat Vinciguerra, Upland, CA	\$25.00	<i>Towards memorial for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
<i>In memory of Ed Shirley, Hesperia, CA.</i>		Martha Olander, Denver, CO	\$10.00
Wisconsin Council of AVSA Clubs	\$25.00	<i>Towards Nell-Sue Tyson memorial</i>	
<i>Apply towards the office computer up-grade</i>		Karen Anderson, Erie, CO	\$10.00
Violeteers Club of Lakewood, CO	\$25.00	<i>Towards plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
<i>Towards memorial for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>		Jean Miller, Arvada, CO	\$10.00
Patricia Bond, Cape Coral, FL	\$10.00	<i>Towards Nell-Sue Tyson memorial</i>	
<i>Beaumont office computer up-grade</i>		Betty Alden, Parker, CO	\$10.00
Town & Country AVS, Painesville, OH.	\$25.00	<i>Towards memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
<i>New fax machine - AVSA office</i>		Janice Sorensen, Englewood, CO	\$10.00
North Star AV Council, Edina, MN.	\$15.00	<i>Towards memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
Rocky Mountain AV Council, CO.	\$25.00		
<i>In memory of A. (Sue) Stanchiff</i>		Total	\$682.00

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17611 N. 102nd Drive

Sun City, AZ 85373-1616

Donations received from September 30, 1997 - November 30, 1997

First Goldsboro AVS, Goldsboro, NC	\$25.00	Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX	\$50.00
Bellflower AVS, Long Beach, CA	\$10.00	<i>In memory of Myrtle Peak, a violet friend</i>	
<i>In memory of Barbara Coster</i>		Mrs. Grace McKneely Barlow and Family, Denham Springs, LA.	\$50.00
Violets & Friends, Piqua, OH.	\$10.00	<i>In memory of Mrs. T.B. (Myrtle) McKneely</i>	
North Star AV Council, Bloomington, MN	\$15.00	Summer Lace AVS, Tallahassee, FL	\$30.00
Canton Ohio AVS, Canton, OH	\$260.57	<i>In lieu of a speaker fee to Louise Merrit of Pensacola, FL</i>	
<i>Our club disbanded and the balance of our treasury</i>		TriState AV Council, NJ	\$10.00
<i>is given for violet research</i>		<i>In lieu of Judge's expenses for Laura Shannon & Sandra Skalski</i>	
Wisconsin Council of AVSA Clubs	\$25.00	AVS of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA	\$20.00
Carol Ann Cook, Circleville, OH	\$50.00	<i>In memory of Dan McConnell & George Lyshon</i>	
<i>In loving memory of Alice T. Yawger, Clearwater, FL</i>		Conrad N Nelson, Minneapolis, MN	\$2.00
Orange County AVS, Brea, CA	\$25.00	John D. Sullivan, Danville, VA	\$2.00
<i>In memory of Pat Cohen</i>		Leslie Peters, Los Altos, CA	\$25.00

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from October 1, 1997 to November 30, 1997

Inner City AVS, St. Louis, MO	\$10.00	TriState AVC, Trenton, NJ	\$15.00
Unpredictables AVS, Grain Valley, MO	\$10.00	<i>in lieu of Judges expense</i>	
<i>in lieu of speaker fee for Jim Britton</i>		Mrs. Helen M. Lisowski, Glenview, IL	\$1000.00
Tidewater AVS, Hamton, VA.	\$25.00	Mr. John Sullivan, Danville, VA	\$2.00
North Star AVC, Bloomington, MN	\$15.00	Bergen County AVS, Wood Ridge, NJ	\$25.00
First of Dallas AVS, Red Oak, TX	\$20.00	WI Council of African Violet Clubs, Milwaukee, WI	<u>\$25.00</u>
<i>in memory of Leroy Hagemann</i>		Total	\$1147.00



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

Cape Cod Violetry
28 Minot Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
508/548-2798

Selective Gardener Catalog
P.O. Box 78398
Nashville, TN 37207-8398

Tinari Greenhouses
2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215/947-0144

Innis Violets
8 Maddison Lane
Lynnfield, MA 01940
617/334-6679

Teas Nursery
P.O. Box 1603
Bellaire, TX 77402-1603
713/664-4400

Violets By Appointment
45 Third Street
W. Sayville, NY 11796
516/589-2724



Concerning Foliar Feeding African Violets

by Leta Moser and Dr. Jeff Smith

The Indian a Academy of Science, Mathematics, and Humanities; Muncie, IN 47306

Although it was once thought that nutrients could only enter through the roots, researchers now know differently (Elbert and Elbert, 1984). Foliar feeding assumes that the plant directly absorbs the minerals through the leaves or other non-root locations (Clements, 1988). It is a non-traditional way of supplying a plant with needed nutrients allowing the leaf, stem, or branch to take in the vital minerals by a spraying a diluted fertilizer on the plant's stems and leaves. According to African violet literature, foliar feeding may be used as a medicine for a sickly plant until it has recovered (Clements, 1988). Baby plants have also been noted to grow much faster when foliar fed (Mackey, 1983). To help with the rapid growth of show plants, foliar feeding is sometimes recommended (Burns, 1986). It can also be used to get some color in a discolored plant (Green, 1986) or to "pull a plant out of a sickly state" (Robey, 1980, p.75). Mackey (1983) claimed that only 10% of the nutrients applied to the soil were actually absorbed by the roots while 95% of the nutrients applied to the leaves were absorbed by foliar feeding. However, none of these claims appear to be supported by controlled experiments; most declarations appear to be made by hobbyists and have been embellished by word of mouth.

To test the effects of foliar feeding on African violets, an experiment was conducted. Sixty African violets of the cultivar 'Trail-along' were used. Twenty plants were controls, nineteen plants (one rotted off early in the study) were foliar fed fish emulsion fertilizer, and twenty plants were given Optimara brand fertilizer. The fish emulsion fertilizer was used because it was the most common nutrient solution reported for use in foliar feeding African violets. The Optimara fertilizer was used because it is a popular fertilizer used by many growers.

The plants were grown for two months under greenhouse conditions. They were watered using a capillary matting system of newspaper over Styrofoam boards. The newspaper-covered boards were placed in trays containing water so that the newspaper absorbed water to the base of the pots by capillary action. The plants then received the water by a wicking system with yarn. The wick was pulled through the pot so that part of it was contained within the soil. A section was left outside the pot, in contact with the newspaper, to pull up as much or as little water as the plant

needed. A standard fertilizer solution (7-9-5) was applied to the water in the tray.

The plants were foliar feed every seven days. The control plants were misted with distilled water while the experimental plants were foliar fed. The fish emulsion and Optimara treatment plants were misted with a solution made according to the directions on the fertilizer packaging. The plants were arbitrarily mixed on the tray and each plant was removed from the tray when being treated to prevent accidental foliar feeding of the solutions to the wrong plants. A plastic bib protected the soil so that excess solution would not drip into the soil, fertilizing the plants though the roots. Foliar feeding was stopped when the mist beaded on the leaves, as suggested by Green (1986). At the end of two months of treatment, the plants were harvested and the fresh and dry weights of the roots and shoots were measured. The shoot/root ratios were also calculated. All of the data was analyzed by ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) for significant differences within a treatment and between treatments.

It was hypothesized that the plants should show different affects in plant growth because the nutrient concentrations of the fertilizer were different. The three numbers a fertilizer advertises are the percent available of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Each chemical has a different effect on plant growth and development. Nitrogen increases foliage, phosphorus enlarges bloom, and potassium aids root development. The fish emulsion fertilizer was formulated as 5-1-1. The Optimara formulation was 14-12-14. Because the Optimara fertilizer was the highest in nitrogen, it was hypothesized that the Optimara group would have the greatest mass of shoots (foliage and bloom), followed by the fish emulsion and control groups. In roots, it was also hypothesized that the Optimara fed plants would weigh more than the control and fish emulsion groups.

The results found no significant differences ($P=.05$) within treatments or between treatments for any of the five values tested (Table 1-root fresh mass, root dry mass, shoot fresh mass, shoot dry mass, and Table 2-shoot/root ratio). Although the roots of the control plants, on average, were slightly higher in mass (fresh and dry) than the foliar fed plants, the results were not significant. The higher root mass in the control plants suggests that these plants may

have needed more roots for mineral absorption than the foliar fed plants. The controls were entirely dependent on the roots for nutrient absorption since they were not receiving extra nutrients though their leaves as the other two groups were.

The results suggest that foliar feeding fertilizers does not increase plant growth over controls that were misted with distilled water. This suggests that the plants are not capable of absorbing nutrients through the leaf, as Mackey proclaimed. Perhaps the benefits claimed for foliar feeding are actually the result of the fertilizer dripping into the soil (which was prevented in this study). If this were the case, the growth that was attributed to foliar feeding would actually be due to root fertilization, not foliar feeding. This may explain the results reported in the literature as compared to our findings. The foliar fed plants did not experience a great growth increase compared to the controls, suggesting roots may be the only way for the

plants to receive nutrients.

A flaw in the methodology however, may also explain the difference. It was observed that the soil of the plants sometimes became dry even when the pot was in good contact with the newspaper used for capillary matting. It was assumed that through this watering system the plants would be able to receive the needed amount of water. However, if the plants were stressed for water, the effects of foliar feeding might not have been apparent.

Although this experiment rejected the hypothesis that foliar feeding benefits African violets, there is reason to take these results cautiously. A new experiment, with a direct wicking system (in which the yarn is in actual contact with the water), is planned to further test the effects of foliar feeding. If the replicate experiment also fails to find any affect of foliar feeding on plant growth, then this method of fertilizing African violets may not be worth the time or effort.

Table 1
Average mass in grams

	Fresh Root	Shoot	Dry Root	Shoot
Control n=20	.57	5.52	.07	.36
Fish emulsion n=19	.48	5.25	.05	.34
Optimara n=20	.48	5.79	.05	.36

Table 2
Shoot/Root average mass ratios

	Fresh	Dry
Control	10.46	6.15
Fish Emulsion	12.04	6.65
Optimara	13.50	7.82

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SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Ella H. Broom and Barbara J. Marsh
Ft. Collins, CO

Saintpaulia enthusiasts have a wonderful opportunity to share their enthusiasm by partnering with a school teacher. Do you know a teacher? If not, contact a school principal or volunteer coordinator.

It is important to remember that each of you is approaching this opportunity from a different perspective. Teachers have completed both educational and credentialing requirements. They are held accountable for who comes into their classroom, the interaction between guest and students, and the time allotted to materials covered. Guests, therefore, must have more than enthusiasm.

The surest way to get your "foot in the door" is to treat this volunteer opportunity as if it were a job. If asked to, would you be willing to sign a contract? What would that contract say? How many hours are you willing to put into this project both in and out of the classroom? What knowledge, or access to experts who have specific knowledge, do you possess that changes your enthusiasm into a valuable resource to an educator? Can your project be replicated for other classrooms?

Be prepared when you meet with the school representative. Begin by taking your resume to the initial meeting. For the African violet enthusiast, this resume may be more pictures than words. Show your expertise in the degrees of your plants. Do you have pictures of plants from propagation to new plants? Do you have a photograph of when you won a ribbon? Those pictures are truly "worth a thousand words"!

Another item you should take to the initial meeting is an outline of your ideas for African violets in the classroom. This outline will have many uses. It will be the basis for discussion between yourself and the educator. The outline will assure the teacher that you are

interested in being a team member who respects what she/he does in the classroom. You will show the teacher that you are interested in sharing their workload, not adding to it when you come to the meeting prepared. By having an outline from which to work, the teacher will be able to assess how your African violet projects will reinforce other areas of their curriculum.

A sample kit is also helpful at the initial meeting. This kit should show any materials that you would use in one lesson plan. Are you going to make the plastic container saucer a recycling project? Then take a container that you have recycled from your own home as an example of the accessibility of these materials. By including recycling in your lesson plans, you open the door to reaching parents. Recycling also makes projects affordable for all students and gives them a feeling of ownership.

Ask the teacher how communication usually occurs between the classroom and the home. Education is a process where parents and other community members are an integral part. Parents are a valuable resource because in addition to supplying recycled materials, they can assist in specific tasks such as helping to organize materials already at school, assisting on potting day, set up a learning center, or reproduce handouts. They can also act as additional liaisons between the school and the community in the areas of donation of supplies, finding additional expert guest speakers and enlisting the aid of civic clubs such as Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions. They can also organize evening or weekend field trips to involve even more parents. Some parents may see this as an opportunity for them to fulfill a long-time dream of growing an African violet as well. Parental involvement at any level establishes and nurtures a community of learners. Student's self-esteem grows as parents and other community members participate in the knowledge exchange process.

Today's students are eager to learn. Teachers work under time and budget constraints; local, state, and national competencies and evaluation expectations. The

African violet enthusiast's classroom activities promote development of logical/critical thinking skills through sequential activities that are broken down into components to facilitate systematic development, application of concepts, principles, and re-enforcement of knowledge. Students will experience science as a component of daily living. African violet projects can remove the intimidation of science for both students and teachers as people of either gender and multiple ethnic backgrounds are represented in the classroom from non-traditional fields.

As the project blossoms, the African violet enthusiast will want to seek input from those with whom she/he is working. A performance assessment form may be easiest for students to use. You will also want to have brief periodic meetings with the teacher. Schedule these at a time that fits into the teacher's work day such as her/his regular planning time. Meetings with the teacher are also an opportunity to give her/him information about other resources in the community that are available to them. Depending upon the age of the students, some of this information can be developed as hand-outs if the teacher would so desire.

Overheads must be proofed by the teacher prior to being presented to the class. A quick meeting with the teacher will let you know if there are overheads that are available for your use, or if you need to develop some of your own. Overheads should include, but not be limited to, terms and definitions, diagrams of African violets where the parts of the plants are labeled, the process of science as it relates to developing and testing a hypothesis, and the process of using the Scientific Method.

African violet enthusiasts have the opportunity to partner with the teacher in subjects such as global skills, creative writing, language arts, and history, as well as science. Do you know where the first African violet was discovered? Do you know who discovered it? Do you know how the plant moved from Tanzania to Germany? Have you ever compared the Colonial Era as a global event to the American experience? Do you know how a plant gets its scientific name? These are the types of

questions that the Saintpaulia grower can introduce to a classroom. The teacher can help you tie this information into their lesson plans to fit other areas of the curriculum. Students can use spelling words in the creative writing piece. Use latitude and longitude lines to locate Tanzania and Germany. Use as many descriptor/adjectives to describe the African violets, and write a class book about the African violet.

Teachers enjoy experiencing the growth of their students during each year. However, they too need nurturing to lessen their chance of burnout. Teachers need partners in the classroom who understand and use standards and curriculum guides, and are willing to help their students meet expectations.

Even if you are unable to participate in classroom activities, there are other ways to help educators. Give a teacher a plant for their desk when you offer to help grade papers. By doing so, you have the opportunity to lighten their load in more ways than one. African violet enthusiasts can volunteer to be pen pals to students in their areas. The inter-generational tie is an important component of development for young people. You may even be able to encourage them to ~~write~~ ^{write} a creative story about how the African violet traveled from Tanzania to Germany and then to the world beyond. This activity can be used to encourage a student to see how the world opens up to them when they read.

Often young people will find that they too, have to move to a new environment. By knowing how plants adapt to new environments, it can diminish some of their fears.

African violet growers should always see that schools have information about any African violet shows that are going on in the area. African violets are not just for grandmothers anymore. Just as all plants bring more than sustainability to our life, a partnership between the African violet enthusiast and a teacher brings about educational opportunities for everyone involved that is needed to live full and productive lives. Growing African violets has many benefits. One of which can be developing a passion for life-long learning.



Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

March Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 SUN	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
2 MON 12:01 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
3 TUE	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
4 WED 2:15 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
5 THU	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd 3:41 am
6 FRI 7:27 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
7 SAT	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
8 SUN 3:46 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
9 MON	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
10 TUE	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
11 WED 2:36 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
12 THU	Virgo	Earth	Barren	Full 11:35 pm
13 FRI 2:59 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
14 SAT	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
15 SUN	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
16 MON 3:51 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
17 TUE	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
18 WED 3:56 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
19 THU	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
20 FRI	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
21 SAT 1:43 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th 2:38 am
22 SUN	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
23 MON 8:02 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
24 TUE	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
25 WED 10:43 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
26 THU	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
27 FRI 10:49 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	New 10:14 pm
28 SAT	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
29 SUN 10:07 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
30 MON	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
31 TUE 10:38 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st

April Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 WED	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
2 THU 2:10 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
3 FRI	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd 3:19 pm
4 SAT 9:36 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
5 SUN	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
6 MON	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
7 TUE 8:26 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
8 WED	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
9 THU 9:05 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
10 FRI	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
11 SAT	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	Full 5:24 pm
12 SUN 9:55 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
13 MON	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
14 TUE 9:52 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
15 WED	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
16 THU	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
17 FRI 8:05 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
18 SAT	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
19 SUN 3:42 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th 2:53 pm
20 MON	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
21 TUE 8:07 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
22 WED	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
23 THU 9:31 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
24 FRI	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
25 SAT 9:09 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
26 SUN	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	New 6:42 am
27 MON 8:56 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
28 TUE	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
29 WED 10:57 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
30 THU	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st

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Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Patt Harris - Santa Clara, CA

- ***First Robin** (8667) 10/18/97 (P. Harris) Semidouble pink/red eye; variable red on tips. Dark green, heart-shaped, pointed, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature trailer**

Yvonne Lambert - Tottenham, Ontario, Canada

- ***Von's Friend Syl** (8668) 11/8/97 (Y. Lambert) Single semidouble pale pink pansy/fuchsia frilled edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Von's Little Lady** (8669) 11/8/97 (Y. Lambert) Double pink two-tone pansy. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Von's Marissa** (8670) 11/8/97 (Y. Lambert) Single pink two-tone sticktite frilled pansy. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Von's Soft Touch** (8671) 11/8/97 (Y. Lambert) Semidouble lavender pansy/darker-tipped top petals. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain, hairy. **Semiminiature**

Frank Tinari - Huntingdon Valley, PA

- ***Fantasy Freckles** (8672) 11/18/97 (F. Tinari) Double lavender-pink ruffled large/dark purple fantasy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

- ***Phosphorescence** (8673) 11/18/97 (F. Tinari) Double lavender/fuchsia sparkle overlay, purple ruffled edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. **Standard**

Ruth Loomis - Flagstaff, AZ

- ***Connie Salland** (8674) 11/22/97 (R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera rose-pink fluted/white stripe, variable green edge. Dark green, wavy. **Standard**
- ***Cynde** (8675) 11/22/97 (R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera pink frilled star/lavender stripe. Dark green, ovate, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Doctor Sandey** (8676) 11/22/97 (R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera dark purple frilled/white stripe. Dark green, ovate, quilted, scalloped. **Large**
- ***Jeedle Jay** (8677) 11/22/97 (R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera lavender frilled star/white stripe. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain, quilted, glossy. **Standard**
- ***Sue Hoffmann** (8678) 11/22/97 (R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera dark pink pansy/lavender stripe, darker fantasy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- ***Susanny** (8679) 11/22/97 (R. Loomis) Single chimera pink frilled star/lavender stripe, fantasy. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, wavy. **Standard**



Showcase



Phosphorescence

Hybridized by:

F. Tinari

Standard



Rebel's Astro Spinner

Hybridized by:

R. Bann



'Sapphire Halo'

AVS of Canada

1997 National Show

Exhibited by: Ernie Elias

Hybridized by: G. Boone

Standard

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

CHIMERAS

by W.S. Marchant
South Africa

The Oxford dictionary defines the word "chimera" as: "An organism containing genetically different tissues formed by grafting or mutation."

Normally, an African violet reproduces by means of leaf propagation because it consists of one genetic structure. Chimeras, however, are a different matter; because they are mutants the structure consists of two genetic arrangements. Propagation of chimeras is not difficult. To produce a chimera requires techniques that take longer to produce another plant.

I think the simplest way to explain the genetic structure of a chimera is to use the "water pipe method". The normal African violet has a genetic structure in which the water flows through the pipe. With a chimera, the structure is similar to one pipe fitted inside a larger pipe, allowing for the flow of two different fluids, one through the smaller pipe and the second fluid between the two pipes.

Most plantlets form on the outer edge of the cut stalk. With a normal variety of African violet, this produces a plantlet similar to the parent. Because there are two different genetic structures producing the chimera, it does not produce a replica, (although on very rare occasions a replica may be produced from a leaf).

There are two basic methods to produce a chimera.

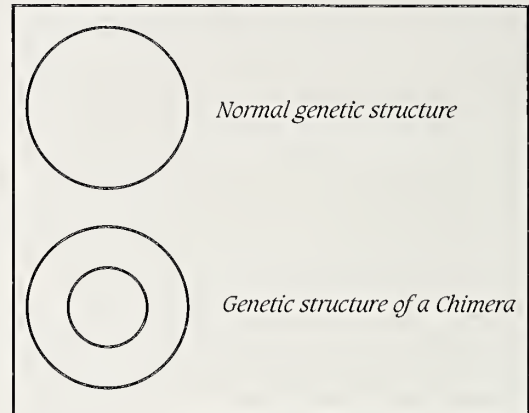
1. Crown removal

This method entails cutting the crown out of the center of the African violet. Using a sharp knife, cut the crown from the center, leaving at least one row of leaves on the stump of the plant. Transplant the removed center in normal AV potting soil.



Crown Removal

In time, new small crowns (plantlets) will appear around the edges of the cut stump. Having the row of leaves on the stump of the plant helps to propagate the new crowns. When these



new crowns are approximately 30mm tall, remove them with a sharp knife and transplant in African violet soil. Repeat this procedure as the stump develops new crowns.

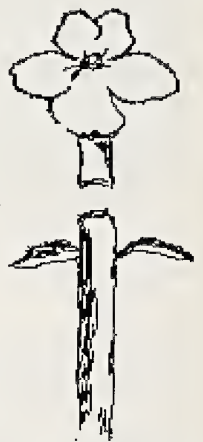
2. Peduncle Propagation

Remove a fresh peduncle from the African violet (chimera). Below the blossom and bud you will notice two small leaves attached to the peduncle, known as "bloom leaves".

Cut and remove the blossom and buds from above the "bloom leaves", then cut the peduncle approximately 25mm below the bloom leaves. Pot the peduncle in African violet soil and allow to grow. The new plant will grow from the axil between the leaf and the side of the peduncle.

When the plantlet is approximately 25 - 30mm tall, remove from the peduncle and transplant into African violet soil, treating it as you would any other AV plant.

From experience, I have found that the crown removal method is easier and more quickly produces an African violet chimera. The peduncle method takes longer.



Blossom and bud removal

Reprinted with permission from Usambara Violet Association publication, South Africa

Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

Dave Jarvis from Australia advises:

"Growing gesneriads is easy. It's growing them well that is the hard part. Most specimens will grow quite happily if given the basics of warmth, moisture, light and an open growing medium. But if we want to grow them to perfection, we need to acquire three things to enable us to nurture the plants to maturity. These essentials are Perception, Patience and Perseverance. We need to learn the signs plants give to tell us they are less than happy with something or other. Patience is needed to give the things we try a chance to work. And perseverance is required to keep trying when things don't turn out the way we had planned.

Now that I have taken to hybridizing I know I am going to need all three of these attributes in increasing measure. There is perhaps one other thing I could use. Just wish me good luck!!!"

As you can see, I'll be presenting advice from many areas of the country and world. If you try any of the following, please experiment with only a couple of plants. When you read this next letter, please keep in mind that Elvin McDonald was only a high school sophomore when he co-founded AGGS.

Nathanael Simonsson writes from Sweden:

"Although I am 16, I am experienced with gesneriads and some other plants. I've grown plants since I was 13 and I've learned much in these few years. When I began growing gesneriads many of my plants didn't thrive well. Many didn't grow much; they became like miniatures with yellowish leaves and would never bloom. It took up to 2 years to get a *Saintpaulia* in bloom from leaf cuttings! Many of my cuttings didn't work, instead they "went to heaven" (died)! I wished then that I knew the best soil-mix and how much water to give them and how to keep those cuttings alive! But now I know what to do with cuttings, using the experiences in trying many methods. I found the best method was to make a "glasshouse" of a plastic bag with a glass-shelf or anything similar to put on the box to keep them warm and wet, but not wet enough to rot! With this method about 90% will begin to grow and become big and wonderful plants!

"About the soil-mix, I tried many different mixtures with many *Chirita* plants, and found this mix the best, a real winner!

1/3 cup coffee-sump (used coffee grounds)

2 cups perlite

2 cups compost or small pieces of old leaves - (Dale advises pasteunize it!)

4 cups vermiculite

10 cups coco-fiber (also sold in the US as coco brix)

"This mixture has good drainage, and when watering this mix will be wet fast. When the plant has drunk the water, the soil will be dry again. Its roots seem to do better than in other soils, and the plant will grow faster and become a very handsome plant! I also recommend you use wicks of any synthetic material.

"Before I stop here, I must say, I find rosette chiritas much easier to grow and get blooming than saintpaulias here in Sweden! Good luck with growing gesneriads!"

Pat Addison from Alaska advises:

"One thing I wish I had learned, and I still forget at times, is that you can't own every gesneriad in the world. If I can't keep up with watering and grooming, the plants suffer. It seems every time my plant room gets crowded, I have problems with mildew or insects. I also wish I had heeded the advice to quarantine any new plants. I've battled soil mealy bugs, thrips, and cyclamen mites more than once. I now quarantine for 3 or 4 months. Then I inspect the plant, including the roots, thoroughly, before it enters my plant room."

Aneita Richardson from California tells us:

"I wish I had known more about specific soil pH for some of the different gesneriads. For example, chiritas, especially *C. eburnea*, need some addition of lime (I use dolomite) to the potting mix. *Streptocarpus* seem to benefit from the addition of a little lime also. I've lost a lot of streps because the soil went very sour. I learned the hard way, I did!"

Send me your gesneriad advice and you may see it in this column!

Showcase

Run For Cover

Grown & Hybridized by: K. Stork

Large





B-Man Surprise

*Exhibited & Hybridized by: **B. Curcuruto***

AVS of Canada 1997 National Show

Standard Trailer

*Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky***

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

FOG OR MIST BUT NEVER RAIN

Today we have rain! You know it never rains in sunny California! It's December 5, and when you read this it will be glorious spring here in California. This liquid- sunshine will insure wildflowers like you have never seen before. (Just in time for the Sacramento Convention too.)

May I ask how was your holiday season? Mine was just super. By the way, did you know that the greatest gift

you can give your fellow hobbyist is a gift of a plant they have been searching for. Make someone happy today, give them the name of the grower of that plant.

Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for my reply, or use my E-Mail address and always return the postage to the person sending you a plant or leaves.

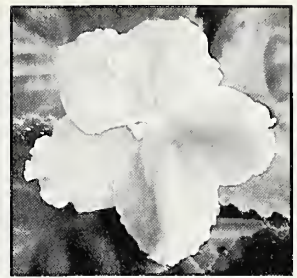
See you in Sacramento!

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

Adeline Krogman	Christina	Double Blue Boy	Holly Go Lightly	Maroon Frost	Park Avenue	Rosie Lou	Tinted Snow
Africa	Cinderella (Flower Pot)	Double Dutchess	Holly Peach	Martha Louise	Parisienne	Rowena	Top Notch
Agglitter	Cinderella's Slipper	Double Mini Orchid	Hood Wink	Mary	Paul's Pazazz	Royal Heart	Tribute
Albert II	Cinnamon Twist	Double Pink Cloud	Hot Lips	Mary Ann	Peepers	Sailor Girl	Triple Threat
Alice Marie	Circus Circus	Double Seafoam	Hot Touch	Mary Lou	Penguin	Sailor's Dream	Tye Dyed
American	Circus Clown	Double Uncle Bob	Ice Fantasy	Mavenick Young Love	Peppermint	Santa Fe Trail (Fredette)	Unpredictable
Amethyst	Clackamas	Dresden China	Illini Deb	May Dance	Peppermint Fog	Sarava	Valeria
Anne Slocomb	Surprise	Dupont Blue	Illini Gem	Melly	Pilgrim Maid	Sea Foam	Vibrant Val
Arabesque	Clipper	Dutchman	Indian Summer	Melodie Frances	Pigmy or Pygmy	Sea Grape	Victoria
Artic Blizzard	Colibre	Easter Egg	Innocent Flirtation	Mermaid	Pink Beauty	Sea Gull	Viking
Aunt Jemina	Columbella	Eileen	Interlude	Merry Christmas	Pink Dresden	Sea Queen	Viva
Autumn Russett	Confessions	Eleanor	Ivory Venus	(Cramer)	Pink Geneva	Sea Shell	Vulcan's Treasure
Baker's Hot Lips	Constance Hansen	Elsie	Jealous Pink	Michelle	Pink Girl	Sequoia	Wanderlust
Ballet Candy	Constance Hansen	Emma Lahr	Jennefer	Mighty Mini	Pink Philly	Shannon Renee	Wham Bang
(Rhapsodie)	Supreme	Emperor Wilhelm	Jimmy Carter	Millie Blair	Pink Time	Sheryl's Renee	What Now
Bee Tee Lee	Coon Valley	Ena	Jimmy Crack Corn	Minako	Pink Wasp	Sheryl's Renee	Whirlaway
Belle's Spring Song	Copper Tips	Fairy Image	Joann	Mini Minx	Pistachio	Silver Anniversary	Whirlaway Sport
Bernice	Copy Cat	Fantasy Lou	Joy Pink	Miriam Steele	Pretty Please	Silver Flute	Whisper Valley
Berry Splash	Coral Cascade	Festival	Kay Russell	Miss Beautiful	Priscilla	Silver Wings	White Feather
Betty's Cindy Darlene	Coral Glo	Fisher's Anne Marie	Kilauea Sport	Miss Libetty	Purple Crest	Skagit Ambassador	White Lace
Black Gold	Coral Radiance	Floral Fantasy	Kiss't	Miss Wisconsin	Purple Star	Sky Magic	White Lady
Black Waves	Coral Reef	Fox Run	Krista Lynn	Modern Jewell	Radiant Star	Snow Drops	White Pride Supreme
Blazing	Coral Tips	Fred. Strawberry Ripples	Lacy Laiser	Mohawk Trail	Rainbow's Bantam	Snow Flake	White Wedgewood
Blue Bouquet	Cordelia	Fred. Sugar Blues	Lady Catherine	Monaco	Neon Glo	Snow Prince	White Whisper
Blue Dart	Corpus Christie	Fred. Twilight Fantasy	Lady Luck	Moonbeams	Rainbow's Black Forest	Snow Queen	Wr's Buckboard Bounce
Blue Nymph (Standard)	Cotton Bowl	Frosty	Lady Mountbatten	MoonMoths	Rainbow's Showboat	Snow Trailer	Wrangler's Campfire
Blue Reverie	Crazy Quilt	Galactic Star	Lavender Lady	Moon Silver	Rainbow's Tequila	Spangles	Wr's Double Pleasure
Blue Skies	Creole Belle	Geneva Rose	Lavender Love	Mountain Blue Boy	Sunrise	Spiced Peach	Wrangler's Lady Lee
Blue Velvet	Crimsony	Georgette	LeBon Creole	Mountain Wildflowers	Raphael	Sport of Crimson Frost	Wrangler's Lady Vallin
Bobby	Crown of Red	GiGi	Legacy	Ms Frizz	Raspberry Frills	Star of India	Wrangler's Lavender
Brass Band	Curley Q	Gilded Strawberry	Like Wow	My Spoon	Ravenscrest	Star Trailer	Lasso
Bryte Angel	Cyndy	Glacier Point	Lilac Puff	Neon Rainbow	Ravishing Ruffles	Stormy Night	Wrangler's Moon Dance
Bryte Bells	Dainty Doll	Glow Baby	Lilac Elme (Behnke)	Ness' Minnesota Splash	Red and White	Sugar Plum Fairy	Wrangler's Moonshine
Bryte Glitter	Daisy Doll	Gorgeous One	Lilabelle	Niagara's Pink Beacon	Red Carnation	Summer Spice	Wrangler's Partner
Bryte Tips	Dallas Pride	Granger's Fashionaire	Lilth Lassie	Night Fever	Renee	Suncoast Pink Giant	Wrangler's Painted
Bryte Sensation	Dar Devil	Gr's Blue Fashionaire	Little Dee	Norseman	Reverie	Suncoast Wedgewood	Desert
Bubblin' Over	Dark Eyes	Gr's Jim Dandy	Little Doe	Nymph Fly	Rhapsodie Candy	Sunday Morning	Wrangler's Prairie Fire
Bulls Eye	Darth Vader	Gr's Venetian Lace	Little Lou	Odyssey	Rhapsodie GiGi	Sweet Honesty	Wr's Ricochet Romance
Bunny Hop	Dates Fanfare	Great Find	Little Maroon	Ohio Sunset	Rhapsodie Venus	Sweet Lady	Wrangler's Rough Rider
Buttercup	Deep Sea Treasure	Great Scott	Little Rascal	Old Blue Eyes	Rhinestone Cowboy	Sweet Lime	Wrangler's Roundup
Butterflies	Delphina (Fredette)	Green Glo	Little Red Wagon	(Mendoza)	Ripped Romance	Targeteer	Wrangler's Sonuvagun
Butterfly White	Diana Ross	Gypsy Charm	Lucky Duck	On Edge	Risque	Teen Wonder	Wrangler's Wanderin
California Cascade	Dib's Thrill	Half and Half	Lucky Stripe	Optimara Cherokee Girl	Rob's Antique Rose	The Parsons Little	Star
Candy Dandy	Dingbat	Handkerchief	Luxury	Optimara Pennsylvania	Rob's Sailor Bill	Pammy	Wrangler's Yankee
Candy Lips Improved	Dippity Do	Hawley's Katy Did	Lyndy Lou	Orchid Beauty	Rococo Pink	The Parson's Ruffles	Yodler
Caribbean	Donna Lee	Heavenly Halo	Lynn	Orchid Ripples	Rosalynn Carter	The Parson's Wife	Zaca Roonie
Catherine	Dorothy Gray	Highbrow	Mamoth Blue	Pam's Potpourri	Roseberry	Tidecrest	Zippy (Baker)
Cherokee Rose	Do's Jean	Holly Dolly	Manhattan	Paragon	Rose Frost	Timber Top	Zuni

Electronic Violets for Every Computer

by Ellen Wass Beckerman



Most of us who surf the Internet have at one time or another run across difficulty exchanging documents with other computer users. There are many reasons for these problems, but typically they are: 1) Cross platform issues such as Macintosh to PC computers; 2) Users don't have the same application that the document was created in, for example, you create a document in the latest version of MicroSoft Word™, but I only have QuarkXPress™; 3) Graphics: I can read PICT and JPEG, but you send me GIF and neither of us has a graphics translator; 4) Fonts: I don't have the font that the document was created in so it's barely readable with my default fonts; and lastly, 5) Compression/Decompression problems: you use ZIP IT™ to compress a picture and I only have STUFF IT™ to expand it with and the file doesn't expand properly so I can't read it.

Don't Give Up—It is Possible to Read Documents Created on Another Computer!

To avoid those problems listed above, many people are switching to a relatively new format called "Portable Document Format." Commonly referred to as a "pdf", these documents can be created and read by most computers. (Macintosh, Windows 3.1, Windows 95, OS2 Warp to name a few.)

Of Course, There are a Few Catches...

BUT NOT ALL THAT MANY...portable documents can be created from any major word processing program such as MicroSoft Word™, or page layout program such as Adobe Pagemaker™ or QuarkXPress™, using a program called Adobe Acrobat™ which sells for approximately \$200. *I'm not advocating that you run right out and buy this program unless you want to create portable documents. The truly impressive part of this program is its shareware application called Adobe Acrobat Reader™.*

Adobe Acrobat Reader™

Is available free of charge from Adobe's web site "www.adobe.com". It allows users to read portable document files. There's a wealth of information on the web today that's available for reading in this format!

To download Adobe Acrobat Reader™, enter the address shown above into your web browser. Once you are there, select the type of computer you are using from the pop-up menus. It's very important to select the proper type, such as Macintosh or Windows 95. Follow the instructions on the web site to download the appropriate file. *Note: This download will take from 20 minutes up to an hour depending upon the speed of your computer. It's a little confusing to choose the correct file to download. If you want a step by step instruction sheet, e-mail me at the address listed below and I'll be happy to send one to you. Be sure to tell me what kind of operating system you have. The AVSA office will also have copies of the instruction sheets. Send your request, including a SASE, to the Beaumont, TX address.*

Once You Have Acrobat Reader

You too, can open "pdf"s without difficulty with compression, fonts, pictures or applications. It's simpler to open the Reader application and then open the portable document file. It's faster if you copy the portable document file to your hard disk, instead of opening it on-line or from a diskette.

Where Can I Get Portable Documents to Read?

Many web sites offer "pdf"s for downloading, usually, so you can read and print out additional information. In the future, we hope to have some portable documents on the AVSA web site. In the meantime, if you contact me, I would be happy to share with you a portable document of the African violets that I am currently growing. I encourage everyone to try to download the Adobe Acrobat Reader™, portable documents can be a lot of fun!

Ellen is an Apple Macintosh computer consultant who loves violets, the Internet, her husband, her garden and her cat! The programs mentioned here are for entertainment and informational purposes only. They do not in any way constitute an endorsement by AVSA. Ellen's e-mail address is: violets@webnc.com



Spring Chores

by Sue Hodges • Australia

Spring is about the busiest time of the year for violet and gesneriad growers. There are so many chores that need to be done that there doesn't seem to be time to get through them all! And there are so many other plants, in the garden and fernery, that are crying out for attention too.

Now that the weather is warming, it is the perfect time to pot your violets, especially if you have been putting it off during the winter. Plantlets can be separated from the mother leaf and potted separately and will grow quickly as the nights become warmer. I find that it is the cool nights that slow my plants down, the days are seldom a problem.

The plants that have been in their pots for some time will benefit from a repot in new mix. It is recommended that you repot every 12 months but mine wait longer than that, I'm afraid. Any plant that is a possible show plant needs to be checked to ensure it is correctly potted. The rule of thumb is that a plant should be three times the diameter of the pot, i.e. a 30 cm plant goes into a 10 cm pot, and so on. If your show plants have outgrown their pots, repot them now, allowing for extra growth.

Older plants that have had leaves removed and are looking like palm trees can be rejuvenated now. Remove the plant from the pot and carefully tease the potting mix from the roots. Scrape the trunk gently with a blade to remove the scars that form where leaves have been removed. Roots will form on this trunk when you repot. Trim the roots so that the plant can be lowered into the pot with the crown level with the rim of the pot and fill with new mix. Water gently to settle the mix around the plant and keep the mix just moist until new growth begins.

If the neck or trunk is too long to repot successfully you can strip the leaves from the plant to leave a crown and cut the roots off completely, leaving a stem about 2 cms long on the crown. Fill a small pot with mix, make a hole in the center to take the stem and settle the mix around it. Water sparingly until the crown is firm in the pot and roots have formed on the stem. Then treat the plant as any other young plant. If you are nervous and feel you may lose the plant, enclose the potted crown in a plastic bag or a terrarium for a couple of weeks to increase the humidity.

Spring is an excellent time to put down leaves as the growth rate is greatest during the warm weather. Leaves put down now will have babies before the really hot summer days hit.

There is plenty to do with the other gesneriads. All rhizomes and tubers that have been dormant over winter need to be potted up. I usually pot *Achimenes* rhizomes in September with *smithianthas* being left a little later as I find they rot if potted too early. I use half Debco African Violet and Gloxinia Mix and half my violet mix as I find my plants dry out too quickly if I use violet mix. It just depends on your conditions.

When potting rhizomes, I fill the pot to within about 3 cms of the rim, place the rhizomes on top of the mix and then fill the pot. Water very sparingly until shoots appear as the rhizomes can rot if over watered. If you pot in damp mix you may not need to water at all for a time. I use this method for all rhizomes. I would plant about 5 or 6 *Achimenes* or *Eucodonia* rhizomes to a 10 cm pot. *smithianthas* have larger rhizomes and produce larger plants so that a single rhizome can fill a 10 cm pot and will probably need one that is larger.

Tubers need care, also, to prevent rotting. I usually leave mine until they show tiny shoots. Then, depending on the size of the tuber, I place them into a pot that will allow for good growth without having too much damp mix around the tuber. You can always pot up later, if necessary. I put mix in the base of the pot, sit the tuber on the top and fill in around the tuber, leaving the top exposed. Once growth has begun you can fill the pot if you wish. I find this the best method to guard against rotting the tuber. Once again, water sparingly until growth has started.

I always leave the tops of miniature sinningias exposed and find I get better shoots that way. I have a number that went dormant during winter and I will need to water them carefully so that I don't lose the tubers. Some can take a long time to shoot. I like to repot all my mini sinningias at the beginning of spring to ensure plenty of blooms by show time.

If you haven't run out of time after all that repotting, there are all the baskets of hanging gesneriads to attend to. They would probably appreciate some fresh mix too! I'm told that the best time to repot *Streptocarpus* is in autumn, but I didn't get many of mine done so they are waiting for me, too.

So, don't forget your supplies of mix, clean pots, wicks and all the other gear you will need. If you have as much repotting as I have, you are going to be busy indeed.

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SOME THOUGHTS ON SEED

by John Beaulieu, Canada

When I show my slide program at horticultural societies, I am surprised at how many members have never tried growing gesneriads from seed. They all start garden plants from seed, many of which they start indoors under lights.

Those of us who have grown gesneriads from seed, know that they are easy to sow and grow, but yet most of these plant enthusiasts do not even think about trying to set seed.

I have always been fascinated at the prospects of hybridizing gesneriads. That thrill of waiting for the first blooms of new crosses, to see if you have anything truly different or exciting. Actually, I find that most general horticulturalists don't realize that even if you self-pollinate a flower on a hybrid African violet or other gesneriad, you will still get a variety of different seedlings, sometimes quite different from the parent plant. The only way to get a true duplication of the parent is by vegetative reproduction such as in the case of African violets, putting a leaf down.

Should you grow plants from a seed of a hybrid, remember, do not give them the name of the parent as they are not true clones. They should be called "seedlings" or "seedlings of...". In the case of an outstanding seedling you may wish to name it.

Unless you have a few spare plant stands, you will not be able to grow all the seedlings that you will have if you sow all your seed. Some seed pods could have hundreds or even thousands of seeds. You must learn to grow on only the healthiest seedlings.

We do not need new varieties if they are poor growers. Even if you are not a "serious AV grower" and only have a limited number of plants on window sills etc., you still want to have plants that are strong, easy growers, bloom readily, and offer pleasing blooms.

You don't have to sow all your seed. Besides sharing with friends, you can store the extra seed in the refrigerator. I find that the little containers that 35 mm camera film comes in are especially good for this. Seed can remain viable for years this way. (Don't forget to label your containers though!) For me, this is a very fortunate fact, as I was without any plants for a few years. But, I had stored some seed in the refrigerator from my *Streptocarpus* hybridizing. This was seed from crosses of various Jonathon Ford hybrids crossed back to species. After 3

years in storage, I had at least 80% germination. Before long my plant shelves were full of seedlings again. It usually takes about 5 - 6 months to have flowering plants from seed, although you may get the odd faster blooming plant - this is always a good trait to develop.

I sow all gesneriad seed in 4" pots of soilless mix (peat moss, vermiculite and perlite), cover with a plastic cup to create a mini greenhouse effect. The seed is sown on the surface of the mix, not covered. I start with fairly moist mix and also spray the seeds with a seaweed mix that helps germination and also provides nutrients to the seedlings. The plastic cover seems to keep things moist enough until the new seedlings are well established. Any further watering required during the beginning is done from the bottom so as not to disturb the seeds and new seedlings. I like to separate them into their own pots before they get too crowded, usually after the first leaves are about 1/2" long.

After a few months you can start to see which seedlings are the better growers. Some grow very fast, some may be large plants and some may be more compact. Leaf shape and color can vary. All these characteristics to consider even before they begin to flower!

I have one seedling which I have called 'Thrills', partly because the throat stripes are the color of the chewing gum of the same name and because of all the thrilling little ways that it starts new plants. Very often on a flower stem, as the flower starts to fade, new plantlets start to form and another flower stem continues from there. These new plantlets can be cut off and rooted. Broken tips of leaves will also start new plantlets. I am growing seed from selfed flowers of 'Thrills' to see if any of these reproductive traits continue or even increase.

There are always new things to be discovered, and growing hybrids from seed (of any gesneriad) is a fun way to enjoy this hobby. Who knows what new, improved variety that you might come up with. Imagine the thrill of a variety of yours winning in a show or pictured in a national magazine. There are so many ways to enjoy gesneriads. Have you given growing from seeds a try?

*Reprinted with permission from
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Regional Reviews

compiled by Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Dr.
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

In this issue we begin a new annual feature: regional reviews by AVSA members. Our goal is to provide more information on growing violets focusing on challenging conditions. Each reviewer has tips to share and favorite plants to recommend. This issue features five reviews to be followed in May by a final set of reviews from Japan, Florida, California, Colorado, Minnesota and Canada.

*Our lead review is done by **June Colwell** from the Hunter Valley African Violet Society, **Australia**. June is well known for growing exceptional violets, and won Best in Show at their most recent annual show. (June had help on the fertilizer portion of her review. Thanks to Richard Trout for his explanation of the Australian/American dichotomy.):*

"I am so pleased to be included in this project. I hope I will be of some help. My violet room is on the ground floor of my home. The temperature is usually quite stable except during extremely hot weather — at these times I mist the plants 2 to 3 times a day. Humidity is 40-60% and the temperature 40-80 F. During the winter I encase the stands in clear plastic sheeting to keep them warm. Painters drop sheets are quite good for this.

"I make my own potting mix. As I have rather a large collection, this proves to be most economical. My potting mix consists of:

- 3 parts peat moss
- 1 1/2 parts perlite
- 1 1/2 parts vermiculite
- 1 part charcoal

This makes a nice, light mixture which works well with wick watering.

"For growing of leaves I use the Texas Watering method. When I separate the babies from their mum, I introduce the wick watering method and continue with this all the way up to and including show plants.

"The only fertilizer I use is Kenrose. The Kenrose label indicates concentrations of 4.6-1.6-3.6 nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium with traces of boron, magnesium, zinc, copper, molybdenum and iron. We use this at the rate recommended on the label

which is 1 ml to 1 litre (or 1 in 1000). Note that on Australian labels, NPK is expressed as percentages (I believe this is a percentage of weight by volume but couldn't confirm this from any of our labels), where as in America you use an older method which measures the phosphoric acid (P2O5) and potash (K2O) contents. To convert, we multiply a US P by .44 and a US K by .83. Using this, Kenrose fertilizer would convert to 4.6-3.6-4.3.

"I maintain my lights 12 hours each day, except when preparing for show, when I increase them 1 hour each week until I reach 15 hours. After show I decrease them 1 hour each week until back to 12 hours once again.

"My most successful plants have been: 'Ness' Sizzlin' Pink', 'Ocean Eyes' (truly a great performer), 'Arapahoe', 'Picasso', 'Colonial Wilmington', 'The King', trailers: 'Rainbow's Weeping Clown', 'Snowy Trail', semi-miniatures: 'Precious Pink' (truly precious), 'Ness' Crinkle Blue'.

"I really love my violets. I would be lost without these truly beautiful friends and spend many happy hours with them. I find them to be the most interesting and rewarding hobby I have ever had and I am sure many of you share this with me."

*From Australia we travel to **Virginia**, home of **Alice Grundy**, our next regional reviewer. Alice is well-known to many of us for the exceptional 'Tiny Wood Trail' she exhibited and it won Best in Show at the 1995 St. Louis national convention. This plant will be remembered by all for years to come, with its 500+ blooms displayed atop perfectly formed miniature trailing foliage. Here are some of Alice's growing tips:*

"I grow my violets in my daughter's former 9 x 12 bedroom that is now my violet haven. I started with a floracart, then soon increased to two more stands made by my handy husband. He also made a work cabinet for potting and grooming with a light above and shelves below. The light is in perfect position for grooming for show.

"I grow many varieties and sizes of plants, but, I really prefer miniature and semiminature violets and trailers, only because of space and easy handling.

"All my plants are grown in Pro Mix BX with a little extra perlite and charcoal mixed in. I also alternate my fertilizers, using 20-20-20 and 12-36-14 and fish emulsion once in a while. Near show time I will use a bloom booster. Wick watering is used on **all** my plants.

"In the last few years I've been entering three or four shows a year. It has been really hard on my plants and me, with having only a small collection with which to work. 'Tiny Wood Trail' is a plant I will always be thankful that I kept over the years, even when it was hardly ever ready for my club show! It is a hard plant to grow to a large size but in 1995 it was at its peak, and it was worth the wait. 'Milky Way Trail' is much easier to grow large in less time. I like growing my trailers in larger, deeper pots. I feel it is necessary to grow them large with an nice round top.

"Over the years I have found growing my plants from leaves make better show plants. Watching them grow from little starters into a beautiful show winner is all the pleasure I could want."

*Next we have a review from **Ohio, Pat Hancock**, hybridizer of the "Buckeye" series of violets and advanced AVSA Judge. (Remember 'Buckeye's Cranberry Sparkler' in the May 1997 AVM?) **Pat** is an experienced violet grower; we hope to see more of her hybrids very soon.*

"My violet-growing area is in my basement. The area is heated with baseboard electric, and I have an air-conditioning unit in a window.

"I have never measured the humidity, but judging by the amount of perspiration on my brow when I work there, I would say it is plenty high. I run a dehumidifier 24 hours per day and it is full daily. I use this water as much as possible to water my violets. Temperature is maintained as close to 70 degrees as possible.

"I wick water totally which accounts for much of the high humidity. My wicks are made of cut old nylon hose. I have tried many different types of wicks and I like these best. They seem to pull just the right amount of moisture and don't dry out unless the water level gets too low.

"I alternate fertilizers. I use Peters 20-20-20; Peters African Violet; Peters Bloom; and Rapid-Gro with bloom booster, and once a month, plain water. I use 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon of each. I also give an occasional misting of leaves with 1/8 teaspoon per gallon of fish emulsion. I mist with plain water also.

"I have tried many different soils and soil mixtures over the years. Recently, I did some testing of commercial African violet soils for my AV club. At the present time, I

use 10 heaping cups of Volkman, 1/2 bag of horticultural charcoal, and 5 cups of washed perlite. I am very happy with this mix. I sterilize all of my soil (not perlite or charcoal) in a 400° oven for 1 hour. Some people say this hurts the content of the soil as to bacteria, etc. I cannot tell that it damages the soil in any way, and the strong root systems on my plants tell me that they like what I do, a lot. There are a lot more soil mealy bugs out there than any of us are willing to admit, and I have seen very few since I have been sterilizing my soil.

"I grow under fluorescent lights, 1 cool white and 1 grow-lux, wide spectrum. Cool white lights of 40 watts intensity are becoming harder and harder to find, and I will probably go to two grow-lux. My bulbs are ten to eleven inches above the plants, and they are normally on for 12 hrs. per day and increased gradually to 15 hrs. per day prior to a show.

"I make my own leaf rings out of plastic dinner plates. I cut a hole in the middle of the plate slightly larger than the diameter of the pot, leaving four tabs sticking into the hole to hold the plate on the pot. These help to train the leaves without the use of rubber bands that don't behave well for me. I make small ones out of plastic saucers for young plants. These get the leaves started growing the way I want them and don't take up any extra space. They serve the purpose of a flared top pot.

"The plants that I have chosen to report on are as follows:

"'Colonial Werris Creek' (Hams-Australia)

This plant grew beautifully for me. It needs 20-20-20 to keep the edges of the leaves from haloing. It has gorgeous large white stars with a pink eye. It blooms early and easily. It grows quite large, blooms are held on strong stems high above the foliage with five or more per stem.

"'Colonial Port Lincoln' (Hams-Australia)

"This plant grows very symmetrically with nice dark green foliage and a semidouble TRUE blue frilled blossom. The pollen sacs are very prominent and the blossoms have a "dewey" look that I love in a violet blossom. They are also quite large, as all of the blossoms on the Colonials seem to be. The blooms are held high above the foliage, last a long time and retain their good color to the end. There are four or more blossoms per stem. This plant does not get as large as some of the other Colonials, but is a good sized standard.

"I have about 30 of the Colonial hybrids and feel they are well worth adding to your collection both for the symmetry of the foliage and the beautiful bloom. I have heard several people say that they proved unstable for them, but I have not had that problem at all.

"'Buckeye Ballerina' (Hancock)

"This is one of my own seedlings, so I am probably not the person who should be critiquing it ("Proud Mama,

etc...") I tend to love large frilled or ruffled blossoms and variegated foliage, and this one pleases me a great deal. There are things about it that I would improve, but we can say that about almost any plant. It has very large double ruffled or frilled blossoms of lavender-pink with raspberry and purple fantasy markings. I would like the bloom stems to be stronger in order to hold the large blooms higher above the medium green and cream variegated foliage that grows very easily on its own in a perfect rosette. There are three or more very large blooms per stem, and it grows to standard size for me."

*From the midwest we travel to southeast **Texas** and the hot and humid home of **Dale Martens**. As well as being our "Gesneri-advice" columnist, Dale is also a very discriminating grower of violets with lots of sage advice to share.*

"I moved 300 plants from California to Texas, in March of 1996. The move adversely affected my plants. Five to six months after the move my violets stopped growing. Then I began to see them die. I was using the same fertilizers and commercial soil as in California. The only difference was the water. Texas club members Lawrence and Elsie Pope used Sunshine Mix #4, and plants I'd given them were twice the size of my plants. It lists 55-65% Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss in addition to perlite, dolomite limestone, gypsum, and a wetting agent. I mix one part of that soil with 1/4 to 1/2 part of additional perlite for wicking purposes. This worked and saved my remaining plants. The lesson here is that my previous tried-and-true soil and fertilizers in combination with my new water was lethal perhaps due to mineral combinations or pH. If you buy a plant from the AVSA convention and don't change the soil, you may lose that plant.

"I use a variety of fertilizers at 1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water. My 4 light stands are on from 8:00a.m. to 7:00p.m. I enter too many shows to fiddle with increasing and decreasing the amount of light.

"The South has 90+ degree temperatures for months, yet we can get freezing temperatures in the winter. I run the air conditioner from April through October. You'd think this would dry out the house but the humidity reads 60% while it's 70-100% outdoors. For powdery mildew, a serious problem for many southerners, Ed Cook from Country Road Violets advised using Phyton 27. It works!!!

"Plant evaluations: A good friend gave me leaves from the Australian Colonial series. I think they are similar to Optimara violets in that they grow best in a window or far away from the center of the light stand. My favorite is 'Colonial Whyte Yarcowie' (Hams). The description reads: 'Semidouble white, large. Medium green foliage. Standard.' That hardly describes the perfect symmetry, large, pure

white blossoms and rich green leaves. It is the FASTEST growing violet I've ever had. Another great plant is 'Colonial Tasman' (Hams). 'Semidouble medium lavender/blue fantasy. Dark green, large foliage. Standard.' The fantasy on this blossom is very heavy. It too, is a symmetrical grower."

*We turn to the "Land of Enchantment" for our final review for this issue. Not only is **Cal Iskra** a veteran violet grower, but she also writes a good review as well! Her analysis of trying to grow violets in arid **New Mexico** is very enlightening. Enjoy!*

"Greetings from the high desert city of Albuquerque, NM, elevation 1 mile. We love to grow violets but have discovered quite a few problems relating to our climate that must be overcome before the plants can achieve maximum beauty. Our annual rainfall averages 8" and the relative humidity often drops into the single digit range, especially during spring and summer. Evaporative air conditioning helps cool and put moisture into the air.

"How do we contend with these adverse conditions? We look for ways to increase humidity around the plants. For me this means growing standard plants in rather crowded conditions over pea gravel that can be dampened, misting often and wicking the violets to provide constant moisture in the soil. Even so, the problems of wicking can accelerate in this dry atmosphere. The water in the tubs evaporates rapidly, leaving an increased concentration of salts in the solution, and it becomes imperative to cut the amount of soluble fertilizer from 1/4 tsp. per gal. to 1/8 tsp. during the driest weather. Fertilizer salts also transpire more rapidly through the leaves, often collecting as dry salts at the ends of the leaf veins and causing more rapid deterioration of outer foliage. This requires more frequent repotting of plants. Since the alkali content in our tap water is slightly over 7, more frequent repotting of plants helps to restore a more balanced pH. I have not had good luck trying to slightly acidify the water.

"I grow under one cool-white and one wide spectrum fluorescent tube 8 to 12 inches from top of plant to tubes, depending on individual plant response. We seldom experience mildew in our arid climate.

"My potting mix is made up of equal parts Canadian sphagnum moss, vermiculite and perlite. This is mixed in a 4 gal. covered bucket with 2 cups horticultural charcoal added. Once mixed, I bring 2 qts. water to a boil and pour over all, then cover and allow to steam overnight, then it is ready to use.

"My first love is the semi-miniature violet. These take a slightly different approach, since the foliage is

generally thinner and transpires more rapidly. After trying many methods, they seem to do better for me when grown over a capillary mat. I usually fit an egg crate over a plant tray and then use two layers of matting over the egg crate, allowing the ends to fall into the tray, where an inch or more of fertilized water is stored. The matting must be moistened first and then it will draw up the solution and keep the pots moist as it evaporates and moistens the surrounding air. 1/8 tsp. of 20-20-20 per gallon with 1 drop of superthrive added maintains growth and flowering. To make sure of contact between pots and matting, I often place a short wick of 1 ply yarn through one of the holes in the bottom of the pot. This helps also if the matting inadvertently dries out. You then replenish the solution in the reservoir and pour a little water through the pots to re-establish good contact.

"An 11 X 16 tray holds from 6 to 8 minis or semis, easily. These are placed 6 to 8 inches from the lights which are on 12 hours a day except when getting ready for a show. At that time they are gradually increased to 15

hours. If we have unrelenting sunshine with never a cloud for months on end, the lights are reduced to 10 hours, since my plant room has a window and too much light will cause the leaves to bunch and bleach.

"The star of my light stands this year has been 'Moonsilk', a white and lavender semi-miniature from Sorano. The semi-dbl pansy blossoms keep coming in profusion and the foliage is very symmetrical in a nice green. Often our hot summer weather will cause multicolored blooms to revert to solid color, but 'Moonsilk' has retained it's lovely coloration.

"'Baby Darryl', by Hoover, is a semi-miniature that seems to stay small like a mini. But the dark green foliage contrasts beautifully with the pale pink two tone blossoms that last for a long time. A charmer.

"'Bob Serbin', from Brownlie, has been the most floriferous standard that I have grown in a long time. Never out of bloom, and a velvety dark red sticktite pansy with a white wire edge. Foliage is dark green with red backing.

THANK YOU!

We have received several additional donated items for the Saturday luncheon auction:

1. Shannon Ahlman of "The Violet Showroom" in Grand Island, Nebraska, will donate a box of nice starter plants.
2. Fran Taylor of Utah will donate an African violet database her husband developed to track African violet collections. It uses a Lotus approach, however, the dbf file can be used with any database program that can use or import a dbf file. e.g. Dbase. Contact me if you want additional specifications on this item. Also, we'll have information on it available at convention.
3. Carol Reynolds of Austin, Texas indicates she will donate a set of violet note cards featuring images of her violet drawings.
4. Lynn Lombard of Colfax, California will donate three "First Day of Issue" African violet stamp tote bags, navy blue background.
5. Herbal Garden Ceramics of Montara, California is

donating three very nice ceramic pots for African violets.

6. Pat Richards of Olathe, Kansas is offering a 1992 "Very Violet Barbie" for the auction. This doll is a real collector's item, and has a violet motif in her evening gown of very violet.
7. Sandy Officer of Minneapolis, MN has donated a 7x5 print of wild purple violets, numbered and signed by Raymond Wattenhofer, a local artist.

Remember, anyone donating items before March 15, 1998 will receive special notice in the souvenir booklet. To donate items, please contact me with a description of the item. Then, you can either bring the item with you to convention, or mail it to Barbara Elkin, Vintage Violets Chairman and Convention Chairman.

Thanks so much and see you in Sacramento! Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Drive, Olathe, Kansas 66062-3004, phone: 913-829-4258, fax: 913-829-4858, Email: patter257@aol.com



Convention Award Correction

Specified Awards - Amateur Division

Teen Thunder

\$10.00

Magic Knight AVS

VIOLETS BLOOM FOR MAGGIE

by Jean McCain
Route 1, Box 326
Mulberry, AR

My attraction for African violets must have began as a child. I remember being somewhat in awe of my mother's women friends who had the room and the leisure, or so I thought, to have African violets. I must have learned something from them, because I remember later rooting violet leaves. I laid them flat, cutting the veins, and fastened them to sand with hairpins. If I was lucky, tiny plants formed at each vein. I am sure few of these grew to blossom stage, because I cannot remember having many flowering plants.

I had heard, "Some people just do not have luck with violets." I knew with me it was just a loss of interest (and neglect) that caused my violet's demise. I must have made an impression on my daughter Jana, however, because she usually has a pot or two around, and for a holiday three years ago she gave me a lovely blooming plant of single to semidouble flowers in a lovely lavender. This plant has a habit of blooming on strong stems straight up from the foliage, and it's many blossoms earned it the nickname 'Lavender Cloud'.

I later obtained a deep purple with white edges on the large blossoms. It's very well formed, but it's habit of suckering and growing every which way soon earned it the nickname, 'Wild Purple'.

Retired now, with some free time, I decided to become serious about growing African violets. My trip to the county library was not very productive. The only address for the African Violet Society of America, Inc. was Knoxville, TN.

The only book available was Helen Van Pelt Wilson's African Violet book, last copyright date in 1970. I kept it for about six weeks, reading it over and over. I drove long distance operators crazy trying to get a phone number for the AVSA in Knoxville!

At the library and during my local search and discussions, the name Maggie Lovett kept popping up. There is a belief among my friends that only a lucky few can grow violets. And everyone said, "Violets grow for Maggie Lovett!"

I had known Maggie for years. We went to the same church and Maggie had lived next door to my inlaws, and helped care for both of them in their later years. Maggie

lived in a big beautiful house that was over a hundred years old, on a large town lot with lots of shade trees and many flower beds.

I visited her with the admitted motive of seeing her violets and picking her brain. Being a modern woman, I fully believed that anything could be learned, and the mystique of the green thumb was actually knowing how to do something and caring enough to put that knowledge to use. Still, there was a nagging doubt. *Would violets ever really grow for me?*

Visiting with Maggie was such a pleasure. She loved violets and talking about them. She had sun porches built in several places, and violets grew everywhere.

Maggie did not buy potting mixtures or fertilizers. She used garden soil and leaf mold, mixed. Some of her pots were recycled cooking pans and some were beautiful ceramics.

She had few of the traditional problems with insects. Perhaps the soil she used contained natural controls. She told me about the time she found ants all over her favorite white violet.

"I was so disgusted. They just came right in the window and were all over it. I just picked up the Raid and sprayed it good. Then I put it out on the front porch and washed it with the hose and left it there all summer. (I am sure she gave it some water) That fall, it was so pretty, just full of blooms. I brought it inside and it bloomed all winter long."

She had about six varieties that really impressed me. My favorite had a large, clear blue, single bloom. She had a more traditional blue, with double petals, and a deep pink that was almost red, a white double, and a light pink. I begged leaves of all of them.

In search of a red violet, some friends once drove Maggie twenty five miles or so to a house where a woman grew and sold African violets. She later told me, "Well, I like my violets better than the ones she had, and she didn't have any new varieties." She continued to wish for a red, and for a yellow. She said she had seen one, years ago, but had never been able to find one again.

By looking for African violets on line, I found a list of AV clubs. I contacted Jo Ann Johnson, president of a club in Peoria, IL, who graciously sent me a magazine, and made notes through it so that I could be up to date as to who was still in business. I will always be grateful to her.

I soon found the AVSA page, and this, along with Jo Ann's help, got me off and running. I joined the AVSA. My first priority was finding a red and a yellow for Maggie.

I contacted Hortense Pittman, and she honestly told me about the yellow violets, that the color was sometimes enhanced by photographs, and although they were lovely, they were not as yellow as one might want yet. I ordered two from her, 'Moonlight Rays', and 'Alamo Sunshine'. I

ordered three reds, 'Sweetheart', 'Frills', and 'Dynasty'. I got 'Alamo Aztec', and 'Alamo Glow', and in the small ones, 'Teen Kiss' and 'Little Prize'. The first to bloom was 'Dynasty', and I prepared to take it to Maggie.

I called her number and it was disconnected! Was she sick? I called her son who told me she had just moved to a retirement center. I called the center, asked if she could have violets. The secretary laughed and said, "Yes." (As I said, Maggie is famous for her violets!)

I found her in a lovely room, furnished with some of her antiques, and almost felt I was in the living room at her home. Sitting on a table in a large ceramic pot was a collection of Maggie's violets. Someone had taken parts of three plants and planted them all in one pot! They didn't look like Maggie's violets. I remembered the beautiful display she always had, and my measly little starter plant, 'Dynasty', though bravely blooming its single bloom, did not look so good, either. I apologetically offered it to her. (It even seemed it's red glow had faded on the trip.)

Maggie had been despondent about having to leave her home, but her attendant cheered us up by telling us of an unusual place to buy violets, at a convenience store! She was raving about one "green" violet. She kept talking and I heard her say the name was 'Wintergreen'. (I am sure now I just missed seeing Hortense's famous 'Winnergreen'!)

When I got to the store, 'Winnergreen' was gone, but I bought eight other plants. The owner had bought a collection in Texas, and these were from Volkmann's Nurseries.

It had been suggested that I not bring Maggie more violets; that it might be too much work for her. The next time I visited her she was doing fine, adjusting to having her meals prepared and people to visit with. Her window had an eastern exposure, and the violets I had seen before were a lovely mass of foliage and blooms. Even 'Dynasty' wore five blossoms and more leaves. I asked her if it was too big a chore to take care of the violets, and she said, "No! That's a real red and I want to keep it. When I get to where I can't take care of it, I'll let you know."

Meanwhile, I had cleaned a lot of debris out of the basement. It has two windows, and the sun shines into

them. Then, I built shelves with grow lights. My purchased plants were doing well. The leaves I had put down from Maggie's violets seemed very stubborn to me. Some of them rooted and grew slowly. Some just seemed to sit there; others finally got large enough to pot up.

One morning I went to the basement, and a plant that had escaped my notice (I usually counted every bud and waited in anticipation!) seemed to stand alone. It was a clear, true blue, very large, single star blossom on a plant with about six leaves. There were two more buds on the one stem. It was my favorite of all of Maggie's violets, the first of hers to bloom.

With no African Violet Club in this area, I hoped to get some interest started, and decided to enter my violets in the county fair. I could not enter so young a plant as Maggie's blue, and instead, entered two others, an unnamed plant the color of faded jeans blue and a semiminature seedling that was a pale creamy yellow or green, edged in purple. They were petted and groomed to perfection. I really tried hard.

I just had to enter Maggie's violet somehow, so I cut the stem with the blooms, tucked some parsley leaves around it, entered them in the cut flower division, miniature section.

Because they were not the traditional purple, my potted violets won only red ribbons in the houseplant division. The chairman of the division told me the judges were definitely not African violet people. (A blue ribbon winner had leaves that did not reach edge of a pot that was much too large, and the leaves were spotted with something rusty, but the blossoms were violet colored...and beautiful!).

Maggie's blue won a blue ribbon in the cut flowers division! But the best award of all is knowing that despite my doubts, the violet that grew and bloomed for Maggie, bloomed for me! I hope I saved at least one of each in her beautiful collection. They are now coming into bloom, one at a time.

And if anyone out there has a real honest-to-goodness yellow for sale, please let me know. Maggie still wants a yellow violet!

Convention Questions?

Contact Convention Director

Ann Miller

522 Willow Wisp Circle

Spring, TX 77388

Phone & Fax: (281) 355-7161



February 21 - March 1 - NORTH CAROLINA

58th Annual Southern Spring Show
"America the Beautiful"
Info: Kristi Helms (800) 849 - 0248

February 27 - March 1 - FLORIDA

Tampa AVSA, 23rd Annual Judged Show/Sale
Eastlake Square Mall, 5701 East Hillsborough Ave.
Tampa, FL
Feb 27 - noon - 9pm
Feb 28 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 1 - noon - 5pm
Info: John Menish (813) 681 - 1910

February 27 - March 1 - FLORIDA

Violet Patch of South Florida Annual Show
Coral Ridge Mall, 3200 North Federal Highway
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Info: Bea Marx (954) 581 - 0817

February 28 & March 1 - ALABAMA

Montgomery AVS 26th Annual Show/Sale
Southern Homes & Gardens, US Highway 231
North Montgomery, AL
Feb 28 - 1pm - 5pm
Mar 1 - 1pm - 4:30pm
Info: (334) 567 - 5433

February 28 & March 1 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS Show/Sale
Corpus Christi Garden Ctr., 5325 Greeley Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX
Feb 28 - 1pm - 6pm
Mar 1 - noon - 5pm
Info: Marjorie Bullard (512) 992 - 3009

February 28 & March 1 - KANSAS

Wichita AV Study Club Show/Sale
701 N. Amidon, Wichita, KS
Feb 28 - 10am - 4pm
Mar 1 - 1pm - 3:30pm
Info: Helen Barrett (316) 683 - 2877

February 28 & March 1 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa Show/Sale
Tulsa Garden Ctr., 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK
Feb 28 - 11am - 5pm
Mar 1 - noon - 5pm
Info: Rose Howlett (918) 627 - 7395

March 6 & 7 - TEXAS

Spring Branch AVC Show/Sale
Fair Haven United Methodist Church
1350 Gessner, Houston, TX
Mar 6 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 7 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Judy Carter (281) 492 - 2034

March 6 & 7 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVS Show/Sale
Beardall Sr. Ctr.
800 S. Delaney
Orlando, FL
Mar 6 - noon - 4pm
Mar 7 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Patti Schwindt (407) 423 - 4750

March 7 & 8 - OHIO

FloralScape '98
Cleveland Convention Center, 500 Lakeside Ave.
Info: (216) 721 - 1695

March 7 & 8 - LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge AVS Annual Show/Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA
Mar 7 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 8 - 11am - 3pm
Info: Sallie Barlow (504) 665 - 7958

March 12 & 14 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS Annual Show/Sale
Plano Market Square Mall (Garden Ridge)
Avenue K at Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX
Mar 12 & 13 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 14 - 10am - 6pm
Info: (972) 278 - 0389

March 13 & 14 - FLORIDA

Gulf AVC Show/Sale
Ft. Myers - Lee Co. Garden Council Bldg.
2646 Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers, FL
Mar 13 - 9am - 6:30pm
Mar 14 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Lillian Scott - (941) 542 - 9193

March 13 & 14 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS 26th Annual Show/Sale
Pierremont Mall, 4801 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA
Mar 13 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 14 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

March 14 - TEXAS

Fort Worth AV Society and Moonlight AVS Sale/Exhibit
Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center, University Dr.
Ft. Worth, TX
Hours: 9am - noon
Info: Mural Fort (817) 589 - 1149

March 14 & 15 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVC Show/Sale
Hernando Community Blood Bank,
12396 Cortez Blvd. (Rt. 50), Spring Hill, FL
Mar 14 - 10:30am - 7pm
Mar 15 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Linda Nelson (352) 799 - 0973

March 14 & 15 - LOUISIANA

Atchafalaya AVS Show/Sale
Municipal Auditorium, Myrtle Street
Mar 14 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 15 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Donnie Clement (504) 384 - 6852

March 14 & 15 - CALIFORNIA

South Coast AVS Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Mar 14 - noon - 5pm
Mar 15 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Ralph Breden (310) 373 - 5697

March 14 & 15 - NEW YORK

Sweet Water AVS Show/Sale
West Sayville Fire Dept., Montauk Highway
Mar 14 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 15 - noon - 5pm
Info: 473 - 8726

March 14 & 15 - FLORIDA

AVS of Pensacola 22nd Annual Show/Sale
Bayview Community Center, 12th Ave. and Lloyd St.
Pensacola, FL
Mar 14 - 2pm - 6pm
Mar 15 - noon - 5pm
Info: Jan Kurtz (850) 932 - 8093

March 14 & 15 - TEXAS

Fort Worth AVS Show/Sale
Ft. Worth Botanic Garden Center, Orchid Room
University Drive, Ft. Worth, TX
Mar 14 - 1pm - 5pm
Mar 15 - 1pm - 4pm
Info: Virginia Linson 481 - 2350

March 18 - 21 - NORTH CAROLINA

Dixie AVS 42nd Annual Convention, Show/Sale
Hosted by the First Goldsboro AVS
Hilton Inn, Greenville, NC
Open to Public: Saturday, Mar 21, 10am - 4pm
Info: Lorena Bunn (919) 747 - 8917

March 20 - 22 - MINNESOTA

Lakes Area Violet Growers Spring Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall, Co. Rd. B & N. Snelling Ave.
Roseville, MN
Mar 20 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 21 - 10am - 6pm
Mar 22 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Ken Rein (612) 488 - 2034

March 20 & 21 - TEXAS

First AVS of Denton Show/Sale
Erwin Hall at First Presbyterian Church
1114 W. University, Denton, TX
Mar 20 - 1:30pm - 8pm
Mar 21 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Phyllis Reuss (817) 430 - 8147
Eunice Curry (940) 382 - 6465

March 21 - OREGON

Portland AVS Show/Sale
Tabor Heights Methodist Church
6161 SE Stark St., Portland, OR
Hours: 2:30pm - 6pm
Info: Charlotte Smith (503) 771 - 5762

March 21 & 22 - TEXAS

Moonlight AVS Annual Judged Show
Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center, University Dr.
Ft. Worth, TX
Both Days: 1pm - 4pm
Info: Mural Fort (817) 589 - 1149

March 21 & 22 - TEXAS

First Austin AVS Show/Sale
Austin Area Garden Center, Zilker Botanical Gardens
2222 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX
Both Days: 10am - 4:30pm
Info: Susan Storey (512) 353 - 2858

March 21 & 22 - COLORADO

Rocky Mountain AV Council Show/Sale
Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York St., Denver, CO
Mar 21 - 1pm - 4:30pm
Mar 22 - 10am - 4:30pm

March 27 & 28 - TEXAS

First Nighter AVS of Dallas Spring Show/Sale
Big Town Mall, Hwy. 80 at Big Town Blvd.
Mesquite, TX
Mar 27 - 1pm - 8pm
Mar 28 - 10am - 8pm
Info: Paula Foster (972) 279-5993

March 27 & 28 - NEBRASKA

Lincoln AVS Spring Show/Sale
East Park Plaza Mall, 66th & O Streets, Lincoln, NE
Mar 27 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 28 - 10am - 6pm
Info: Jill Jensen (402) 420 - 2251

March 27 & 28 - CALIFORNIA

Pomona Valley AVS Show
Church of the Brethren, 2175 Bonita Ave.
La Verne, CA
Mar 27 - 1pm - 6pm
Mar 28 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Marilyn McQuown (909) 672 - 7353

March 28 - New York

Hudson Highland AVS Show/Sale
Union Presbyterian Church, 44 Balmville Rd.
Newburgh, NY
Hours: noon - 4pm
Info: Mary Louise Miller (914) 831 - 7786

March 28 & 29 - IOWA

Evening AV Club of Des Moines Show/Sale
Des Moines Botanical Center
Des Moines, IA
Mar 28 - 10am - 5pm
Mar 29 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Kathy Mathews (515) 674 - 4025

March 28 - TEXAS

NASA Area AVS Exhibit/Sale
Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 NASA Rd. 1
Webster, TX
Hours: 10am - 5pm
Info: Pauline Mahoney (281) 536-1880

March 27 & 28 - DELAWARE

Delaware AVS Annual Show/Sale
 Bascou's Auditorium, Concord Mall, Rt. 202
 Wilmington, DE
 Both Days: Sale - 10am - 8pm
 Show: 1:30pm - 8pm

Info: Bobbie LaFashia (302) 656-7215

March 28 & 29 - LOUISIANA

Jefferson AVA Annual Judged Show/Sale
 Lakeside Shopping Center, 3301 Veterans Blvd.
 Metairie, LA
 Mar 28 - 2pm - 9pm
 Mar 29 - noon - 6pm

Info: Audrey Voorhees (504) 282 - 6492

March 28 & 29 - ILLINOIS

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
 Chicago Botanic Garden
 Lake-Cook Rd. & Edens Expy. Glencoe, IL
 Both Days: 10am - 4pm
 Info: Nancy Maybloom (847) 882 - 4652
 email: Hsmay@aol.com

April 2 - 4 - TEXAS

First AVS of Dallas Annual Show/Sale
 Richardson Square Mall, Beltline & Plano Rd.
 Richardson, TX
 Sale: Apr 2 - 4 - 10am - 9pm
 Show: Apr 3 - noon - 9pm
 Apr 4 - 10am - 9pm
 Info: (972) 278 - 0389

April 3 - 5 - IOWA

Quad Cities AVS Show/Sale
 Duck Creek Mall, Bettendorf, IA
 Mall Hours
 Info: Celia Schafer (319) 359 - 0231

April 3 & 4 - VIRGINIA

Richmond AVS Show/Sale
 Virginia Center Commons Mall, 10101 Brook Rd.
 Glen Allen, VA
 Both Days: 10am - 9:30pm
 Info: Barbara Greenwalt (804) 755 - 7434

April 3 & 4 - TEXAS

First AVS of Wichita Falls Show/Sale
 University United Methodist Church, 3405 Taft
 Wichita Falls, TX
 Apr 3 - 2pm - 4pm
 Apr 4 - 10am - 3pm
 Info: Sue Ramser (940) 767 - 0388

April 3 & 4 - CANADA

Stampede AVS 22nd Annual Show/Sale
 Market Mall Shopping Centre, Fountain Court Area
 3625 Shaganappi Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
 Mall Hours
 Info: Winston J. Goretzky (403) 241 - 8313
 (leave message)
 email: goretzky@cadvision.com

April 3 - 5 - MINNESOTA

Minnesota AVS Show/Sale
 Maplewood Mall, White Bear Ave
 just south of Hwy. 694, Maplewood, MN
 Apr 3 - 10am - 9pm
 Apr 4 - 10am - 6pm
 Apr 5 - noon - 6pm
 Info: Dolores Harrington (612) 571 - 0212

April 3 & 4 - ALABAMA

Early Bird VC Annual Show/Sale
 Garden Center Bldg., Ruth B. Strange Auditorium
 Birmingham Botanical Gardens
 Birmingham, AL
 Apr 3 - 2pm - 4pm
 Apr 4 - 9am - 3pm
 Info: Ramona Hodges (205) 833 - 1309

April 4 & 5 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Morris County
 Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown, NJ
 Apr 4 - 1:30pm - 5pm
 Apr 5 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: Karyn Cichocki (973) 579 - 7914

April 3 & 4 - FLORIDA

AVS of Fort Walton Beach Annual Show/Sale
 Santa Rosa Mall, Mary Esther, FL
 Info: (850) 678 - 6902, (850) 863 - 2329
 (850) 651 - 1638

April 3 - 5 - MISSOURI

Unpredictables AVS 15th Annual Show
 Independence Center Shopping Mall, I-70 & M-291
 Independence, MO
 Info: (816) 229 - 8361

April 3 & 4 - SOUTH CAROLINA

First AVS of Spartanburg Display/Sale
 Hillcrest Mall, 1901 E. Main St., Spartanburg, SC
 Apr 3 - 10am - 6pm
 Apr 4 - 10am - 4pm (or until sold out)
 Info: Jessie Dennis (864) 578 - 1165

April 4 & 5 - CALIFORNIA

Capital City AVS Display/Sale
 Shepard Garden and Arts Center
 3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA
 Apr 4 - 2pm - 5pm
 Apr 5 - 10am - 5pm
 Info: (530) 878 - 0505

April 4 & 5 - ILLINOIS

Barrington Bloomers AVS Show/Sale
 Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd.
 Glencoe, IL
 Apr 4 - 1pm - 4pm
 Apr 5 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: Nikki Collard (847) 526 - 6055

April 4 & 5 - NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque AVC Annual Show/Sale
 Garden Center of Albuquerque, 10120 Lomas Blvd. NE
 Albuquerque, NM
 Apr 4 - 2pm - 5pm
 Apr 5 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: Agatha Garrison (505) 384 - 5026

April 4 - ARKANSAS

North Central Arkansas AVS Show/Sale
 Jacksonville Community Center, 5 Municipal Dr.
 Jacksonville, AR
 Hours: 9am - 5pm
 Danny Tidwell (501) 726-4803

April 4 - MICHIGAN

Border Cities AVC 46th Annual Display/Sale
 St. James Church, 241 Pearson St., Ferndale, MI
 Hours: 10am - 5pm
 Info: (313) 278 - 5030

April 4 - CONNECTICUT

Windsor AVS Judged Show
 Windsor Public Library, 323 Broad St.
 Windsor, CT
 Hours: 9am - 3pm
 Info: Vivian Hiltz (860) 828 - 7979

April 4 & 5 - OHIO

AVS of Dayton Show/Sale
 The Mall at Fairfield Commons, Beavercreek, OH
 Mall Hours
 Info: Doris Palm (937) 873 - 8345
 Pat Hancock (513) 777 - 2524

April 4 & 5 - NEW YORK

Long Island AVS 44th Annual Show/Sale
 John A. Anderson Recreation Ctr., 111N. Oceanside Rd.
 Rockville Centre, NY
 Apr 4 - 2pm - 5pm
 Apr 5 - noon - 5pm

April 4 & 5 - TEXAS

Cen-Tex Rainbow AVC 14th Annual Judged Show/Sale
 Conder Park Special Olympics Bldg.
 902 Conder St., Killeen, TX
 Apr 4 - 3pm - 5pm
 Apr 5 - 11am - 4pm
 Info: Nancy Sneed (254) 542 - 1352

April 4 & 5 - LOUISIANA

Sundowner's AVS 18th Show/Sale
 Baton Rouge Garden Ctr., 7950 Independence Blvd.
 Baton Rouge, LA
 Apr 4 - 2pm - 6pm
 Apr 5 - 11am - 4pm
 Info: Mary McFarland (504) 923 - 3337

April 10 & 11 - GEORGIA

Master City AV & Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
 Augusta Mall, 3450 Wrightsboro Rd., Augusta, GA
 Both Days: 10am - 9pm
 Info: Sharon Miles (706) 592 - 4274

April 10 & 11 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Easter Sale
 TarryTown Mall, US 301 & Business 64
 Rocky Mount, NC
 Both Days: 10am - 7pm
 Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

April 11 & 12 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS Spring Sale
 Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Rd.
 Ann Arbor, MI
 Apr 11 - 10am - 4:30pm
 Apr 12 - 11am - 4pm
 Info: Loreen Callentine (517) 345 - 9053

April 16 - 18 - TENNESSEE

Bluff City AVC Spring Show
 Oak Court Mall, 4465 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN
 Apr 16 - 4pm - 9pm
 Apr 17 - 9am - 9pm
 Apr 18 - 9am - 6pm
 Info: Iona Pair (901) 385 - 1148
 Gwendolyn Brown (901) 362 - 1983

April 18 & 19 - CONNECTICUT

Thimble Islands AVS Show/Sale
 Canoebrook Senior Center, Cherry Hill Rd.
 Branford, CT
 Apr 18 - 1pm - 4pm
 Apr 19 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: Carolyn Gaffan (203) 937 - 7434

April 18 & 19 - CANADA

Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal
 Annual AV Exposition, Chalet du Parc Maisonneuve
 4601 Sherbrook Est, Montréal, Québec, Canada
 Apr 18 - 10am - 5pm
 Apr 19 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: (514) 990 - 5701

April 18 & 19 - ARKANSAS

Green Thumb AVS of Fayetteville, AR, Show/Sale
 Northwest Arkansas Mall, Fayetteville, AR
 Apr 18 - 1pm - 9pm
 Apr 19 - noon - 4pm
 Info: Mary Hill (918) 437 - 3343 (days)

April 18 & 19 - INDIANA

Indiana State AV Show/Sale
 Garfield Park Conservatory, 2450 Shelby St.
 Indianapolis, IN
 Both Days: 10am - 5pm
 Info: Chris Poore (317) 898 - 1608

April 18 - MISSOURI

Heart of Missouri AVS Spring Show/Sale
 Senior Center, 1121 East Bus. Loop I-70
 Columbia, MO
 Hours: 9am - 3pm

April 18 & 19 - OHIO

Columbus AVS 50th Anniversary Show
 Franklin Park Conservatory, 1777 East Broad St.
 Columbus, OH
 Apr 18 - noon - 5pm
 Apr 19 - 10am - 5pm
 Info: (614) 444 - 6315

April 18 - TEXAS

AVS of Beaumont Sale
 Garden Center at Tyrrell Park
 Beaumont, TX
 Hours: 9:30am - 3pm
 Info: Mildred Mitchell (409) 866 - 0012

April 18 & 19 - NEW YORK

Saintpaulia Society of Long Island Annual Show/Sale
 St. Mary of the Isle Parish Hall,
 Park Ave. and Monroe Blvd., Long Beach, NY
 Apr 18 - 3pm - 7pm
 Apr 19 - 8am - 3pm
 Info: Claire Schirtzer (516) 432 - 6843

April 24 & 25 - NEW JERSEY

Bergen County AVS Annual Show/Sale
 Old North Reformed Church,
 Washington & Madison Ave.
 Dumont, NJ
 Apr 24 - 5pm - 9pm
 Apr 25 - 9am - 3pm
 Info: Joe DiSimon (201) 261 - 4215

April 25 & 26 - WASHINGTON

Seattle AVS & The Puget Sound Gesneriad Society
 Annual Show/Sale
 U of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture
 3501 NE 41st St., Seattle, WA
 Apr 25 - noon - 5pm
 Apr 26 - noon - 4pm
 Info: Merri Naki (425) 513 - 1346

April 25 & 26 - PENNSYLVANIA

AVS of Lower Bucks County Annual Show/Sale
 Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Rd., Bristol, PA
 Both Days: 10am - 5pm
 Info: Joyce McMullen (215) 752 - 2554

April 25 & 26 - VIRGINIA

8th Annual Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival
 Downtown Historic District
 Apr 25 - 10am - 6pm
 Apr 26 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: (703) 777 - 1368

April 25 & 26 - CANADA

Club Violettes Longueuil
Centre Jeanne Dufresnoy, 1 est. Boul. Curé Poirier
Longueuil (Q.C.), Canada
Apr 25 - 1:30pm - 5pm
Apr 26 - 9am - 4pm
Info: R. Martin 448 - 4924
M. Paradis 928 - 8097

April 25 & 26 - CANADA

Monctonian AVS Spring Show
MacArthurs Nurseries, 232 McLaughlin Rd.
Moncton, NB, Canada
Apr 25 - 2pm - 9pm
Apr 26 - 9am - 4pm
Info: (506) 855 - 1758

April 25 & 26 - NEW YORK

AVS Greater New York 41st Annual Spring Show
Queens Botanical Garden,
43-50 Main St., Flushing, NY
Apr 25 - 1:30pm - 5:30pm
Apr 26 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Sally Jantrant (718) 779 - 4350
Ray Coyle (718) 296 - 8033

April 25 & 26 - CANADA

Lakeshore AVS of Toronto Annual Show/Sale
Sherway Gardens, 25 The West Mall
Etobicoke, ON, Canada
Apr 25 - 11am - 5pm
Apr 26 - noon - 4pm
Info: Jim Toms (416) 622 - 5243

April 25 & 26 - WISCONSIN

Oshkosh Violet Society 18th Annual Show/Sale
Park Plaza Mall, downtown Oshkosh
Apr 25 - 10am - 5pm
Apr 26 - noon - 4:30
Info: Cathy Heider (920) 685 - 5262
Kevin Degner (920) 426 - 3764

April 30 - May 3 - VIRGINIA

Tidewater AVS Annual Show/Sale
Coliseum Mall, Hampton, VA
Mall Hours
Info: Celesta Crikil 479 - 3681

May 1 & 2 - MASSACHUSETTS

Bay State AVS Annual Show/Sale
Waltham Field Station, 240 Beaver St., Waltham, MA
May 1 - 2pm - 8pm
May 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Nancy Manozzi (508) 872 - 1478

May 1 & 2 - NEW JERSEY

Union County Chapter's 44th AV Exhibit & Sale
All Saints Episcopal Church, 559 Park Ave.
Scotch Plains, NJ
May 1 - 6pm - 9pm
May 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Jean Peters (908) 276 - 3221

May 1 & 2 - NEW JERSEY

Garden State AVC Show/Sale
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
E. State St. Extension, Mercerville, NJ
May 1 - 1pm - 8pm
May 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Claudia Schaeffer (609) 448 - 2957
Gary Thurman (609) 499 - 3395

May 1 & 2 - MISSOURI

MKO Violet Club of Joplin, MO Annual Show
Including plants from the AVC of Bella Vista, AR
Bethany Presbyterian Church
20th & Virginia, Joplin, MO
May 1 - 10am - 4pm
May 2 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Linda Lewis (417) 673 - 3061
Pall Stott (417) 525 - 4234

May 1 - 3 - OHIO

Cincinnati AVS Annual Spring Show
Beechmont Mall, Anderson Township
May 1 - 1pm - 9pm
May 2 - 10am - 9pm
May 3 - noon - 6pm
Info: (513) 271 - 5678
(606) 384 - 4437

May 2 & 3 - NEW YORK

AVS of Syracuse Show/Sale
Great Northern Mall, Clay, NY
Rt. 31, West of Syracuse
Mall Hours
Info: (315) 455 - 2963

May 2 & 3 - ILLINOIS

Illinois AVS Show & Convention
Elgin Holiday Inn, 345 W. River Rd.
May 2 - 1:30pm - 5:30pm
May 3 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Jan Bruns (630) 837 - 1298

May 2 & 3 - PENNSYLVANIA

AVS of Springfield, Delaware Co.
Springfield Mall, Rt. 320 & Baltimore Pike
May 2 - 11am - 9pm
May 3 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Nancy Corse (610) 566 - 5042

May 2 & 3 - CONNECTICUT

Naugatonic AVS Annual Spring Show
Boothe Memorial Park Hall, Main St. (Putney)
Stratford, CT
Exit 53S off Merritt Parkway
May 2 - 1pm - 4pm
May 3 - 10am - 4pm

May 2 & 3 - CONNECTICUT

Silvermine AVS Judged Show/Sale
Nature Center for Environmental Activities
10 Woodside Ln., Westport, CT
May 2 - 1:30pm - 5pm
May 3 - noon - 4pm
Info: Sylvia Siegel (203) 847 - 5570
Cindy O'Brien (203) 846 - 0268

May 2 & 3 - MISSOURI

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council
43rd Annual Show/Sale
Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw, St. Louis, MO
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Ardath Miller (314) 394 - 9190

May 2 & 3 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura Co. AVS Annual Show/Sale
Buenaventura Mall, Mills Rd. & Main St., Ventura, CA
May 2 - 10am - 6pm
May 3 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Lisa Martinez (805) 983 - 3522

May 7 - 9 - OHIO

Violets & Friends Club Show/Sale
Miami Valley Centre Mall, Rt. 36 & I-75
Piqua, OH
May 7 - 1pm - 9pm
May 8 & 9 - 10am - 9pm
Info: (937) 492 - 6588
(937) 773 - 6603

May 8 & 9 - CANADA

AVS of Central Alberta Show/Sale
Parkland Mall, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada
Show: May 8 - 4:30pm - 9pm
Sale: May 9 - 9:30am - 6pm
Info: Margaret Gratto (403) 346 - 2252

May 8 & 9 - KANSAS

Bright Petals AVC Annual Display/Sale
Gold Room, Holiday Inn, 3017 10th St.
Great Bend, KS
May 8 - 8am - 6pm
May 9 - 9am - 5pm
Info: (316) 285 - 6478
(316) 793 - 6875

May 8 & 9 - OHIO

Parmatown AVC 38th Annual Show/Sale
Parmatown Mall, 7899 W. Ridgewood Dr., Parma, OH
May 8 - 12:30pm - 9pm
May 9 - 9am - 6pm
Info: Martha Bell (330) 483 - 3546

May 8 & 9 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS Mother's Day Sale
Pierre Bossier Mall, 2950 E. Texas, Bossier City, LA
Both Days: 10am - 5pm (or until sold out)
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

May 8 & 9 - NORTH CAROLINA

First Goldsboro AVS Show/Sale
Berkeley Mall
Mall Hours
Info: Frances Deans (919) 778 - 3179

May 8 & 9 - MARYLAND

Baltimore AVC 44th Annual Show/Sale
North Plaza Mall, Parkville, MD
May 8 - 1pm - 9pm
May 9 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Janet Haag (410) 377 - 8753

May 8 & 9 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Mother's Day Sale
Carolina East Mall, Greenville, NC
Both days: 10am - 7pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

May 8 & 9 - TENNESSEE

Memphis AVS Show/Sale
Memphis Botanical Garden, Memphis, TN
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Geneva Stagg (901) 757 - 1136

May 9 - NEBRASKA

Omaha AVS Spring Sale
Southroads Mall, 1001 Ft. Crook Rd.
Bellevue, NE
Mall Hours
Info: Perry Robinson (402) 280 - 2882
Patty Burkey (402) 289 - 3328

May 9 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Plant Sale
Coddington Mall, Guernville Rd. at Hwy. 101
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Sherry Olson (707) 836 - 0910

May 9 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS Plant Sale
Padre Staples Mall, 5488 South Padre Island Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX
Hours: 10am - 5:30pm
Info: Majorie Bullard (512) 992 - 3009

May 9 & 10 - GEORGIA

AVC of Greater Atlanta Mother's Day Mini Show/Sale
North Dekalb Mall
Lawrenceville Hwy. & North Druid Hills Rd.
Decatur, GA
Mall Hours

May 9 & 10 - CANADA

AVS of Greater Montréal Annual Show/Sale
Pointe Claire Curling Club, Cartier/Lanthier
Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada
May 9 - 1pm - 5pm
May 10 - noon - 4pm
Info: (514) 695 - 5149

May 10 & 11 - CALIFORNIA

Foothill AVS Mother's Day Show/Sale
The Plaza at West Covina, Lower Level - Macy's Court
1200 West Covina Parkway, West Covina, CA
May 10 - 10am - 8pm
May 11 - 11am - 7pm
Info: Cindy Cartwright (626) 969 - 1431

May 15 - 17 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Northtown Mall, Hwy. 10 & University Ave. NE
Blaine, MN
Mall Hours
Info: Sandy Officer (612) 835 - 8603

May 16 & 17 - NEW YORK

AVS of Rochester 49th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave.
Rochester, NY
May 16 - 2pm - 6pm
May 17 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Irwin Wagman (716) 381 - 6384
email: IrwinWag@aol.com

May 24 - CANADA

Toronto AVS Annual Judged Show
Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. E at Leslie
North York, Ontario, Canada
Hours: 11am - 5pm
Info: Jean Hamilton (416) 491 - 9719 after 6pm





What's New on the Internet

by Wayne Donaho, AVSA Webmaster

In the last few months, a dedicated group of volunteers has been working behind the scenes on the AVSA web site at <http://www.AVSA.org>.

A web site is a lot like an electronic magazine. The advantage is that a web site can have new information every day. If you have internet access, you can see our new web site at: <http://www.AVSA.org>

We have designed the site to have useful information for experienced African violet growers, and also to provide beginners who are not yet AVSA members with the basic information they need to become successful growers.

Some of the new information on the web site includes:

New Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

A new comprehensive FAQ has been written that contains information for beginners and advanced growers. If you have an idea to improve any of the answers, please send it using e-mail to FAQ@avsa.org.

Included in the FAQ section is a message forum, where readers can post additional questions about African violets. This forum will work like the very popular gesneriphiles mailing list does today, but it will work through the web instead of e-mail.

New Events Calendar

We have set up an electronic events calendar that will allow our affiliate clubs to publicize shows, sales, and local club meetings. Publicizing local affiliate club meetings should increase the number of new members each affiliate attracts.

Affiliates Listing

We have also set up a listing of all affiliate clubs so that newcomers who are looking for a local club to join can easily find a club near them. We encourage every affiliate to send us contact information. We at AVSA want to provide your affiliate this publicity so that your affiliate continues to attract new members, because we know that your new members will also become new AVSA members.

Vendor Index

When our local club does a show at the mall, people constantly ask us, "Where can I buy those nice white pots? Where do you get these unusual plant varieties?" Well, here is the answer for everyone who does not yet have access to the AVM magazine: a listing of our commercial members, what they sell, and how to contact them. The index also contains links to the web sites belonging to many of our commercial members. If you have not looked at these sites already, I recommend that you take the time.

Attention AVSA Affiliates

Please look at the web site affiliate pages, and send us information about contact people in your club. The affiliate index will attract new members to our local affiliate, so make sure your club's listing is current.

See <http://www.AVSA.org/affiliates/updates> for information on updating your affiliate listing and entering your club's events into the AVSA web event calendar.

Electronic African Violet Show

This is one of the most exciting additions. We are asking African violet growers to submit photographs of their plants to the Internet Committee. The committee will post these photographs on the web. Visitors to the site will choose the winners by voting on which photos they like best. Submit your photos, or just come and vote for your favorites!

First show topic is: ***Your Favorite African Violet.***

Library of Plant Photographs

This section contains photographs of African violets and other gesneriads. Photographs will be selected from old issues of the AVM, and from those submitted by our web site viewers. If you have a photo you wish to show off, please send it to the Internet Committee. Instructions are located at

African Violet Magazine Index and Articles

We are working to have a searchable database of all of the articles that have appeared in the *African Violet Magazine*. Also the web site will have some of the best articles from past issues of the AVM.

Photograph of the Day

On this page, we will display a new photograph of an African violet every day. The photographs are selected from those in the photo library.

Convention Information

Complete 1998 Convention information is now available on the web site.

African Violet and Gesneriad Books for Sale

New African violet growers always want to know if there is a good book available. AVSA in association with Amazon.com now sells AV and gesneriad books including: Tony Clements' *African Violets*, Melvin Robey's *African Violets: Gifts from Nature*, and Ruth Coulson's *Growing African Violets: And Some Other Flowering House Plants*, and Pauline Bartholomew's *Growing to Show*.

Visit <http://www.AVSA.org> often to see the latest news!

Our new site will be constantly changing, with new photographs, new event listings, and new entries in our electronic shows. We hope you will come again and again, and find something new and useful every time you visit.

Long Division for African Violets, not Arithmetic

by Ruth Coulson • Australia

The three most commonly asked questions about African violets are: "Why did my African violet die?", "Why won't my African violet flower?" and "What is the best time to divide them up?"

Naturally the answers to all three of these are somewhat intertwined, but since this is spring, the very best time of year to do repotting, let us look at the last of the three.

It is a question which sets the teeth of many a grower of fine show quality African violets on edge. That is because if you are serious about growing good African violets you try to prevent them getting to the stage of needing to be "divided up". However, even in the best regulated collections it does happen from time to time, and for the rest of us perhaps even more frequently.

Let us accept the fact that a rosette type African violet will look better, grow better, stay healthier and certainly flower more profusely over a longer period if kept to just one crown. If you prefer the multicrowned look, it would be better to grow trailing African violets which succeed beautifully grown with as many crowns as possible.

So why does an African violet sometimes become a mass of side shoots, and what can be done to prevent this happening?

Side shoots (or suckers) are small extra crowns which grow around the base of the plant, sometimes from below the level of the potting mix, and sometimes from the leaf axils. If they are allowed to continue to grow they will eventually push the main leaves of the plant out of shape and the whole plant will become a bunch of leaves growing in all directions, instead of the neat rosette of leaves which we prefer to achieve.

Some varieties of African violets have a greater tendency to produce side shoots than others. This is reminiscent of the rather informal growth habit of the majority of the species saintpaulias. It is, however, something that any of them will do when under stress of any type, and also at other, less easily understood, times.

Prevent side shoots by taking good care of the plant in the following ways:

- Pot up the plant into a larger pot than necessary, until it is in a pot of 100 mm (for standard type African violets) which is usually optimum for all but the largest growing and most vigorous plants.
- Preserve the center of the plant by guarding against pests, by fertilizing in moderation and by leaching periodically with clear water.
- Keep the plant in the best conditions you can provide, with careful attention to watering. Wick watering or other automatic watering systems are the best for providing even water levels to the roots of the plant.

But what do you do if the plant produces sideshoots anyway? First, they should be removed as soon as noticed. A

sideshoot can be distinguished from a flower bud at a very early stage because the sideshoot will have a number of leaves, whereas a flower bud will have only two tiny leaves. Use a pair of tweezers, a knife, a hooked blade, or similar to take sideshoot out completely.

Sideshoots for propagation

If the side shoot is large and is removed whole it can be planted in a separate small pot and will grow on to be a plant resembling the original. If it grew around the very base of the plant it might even already have its own root system. This is fine in the case of a chimera (which, by definition, does not reproduce "true" from the leaves), or even in the case of a fantasy or other bicolored type which doesn't **always** reproduce "true" from leaf.

In these cases you might let the sideshoot grow a little larger so that it can easily be removed from the plant whole, and can be used for propagation. This is the exception to prove the rule that they should be removed as soon as identified.

Dividing it up

And if the whole thing "gets away from you" and becomes a mass of shoots in the pot? Well don't despair. Wait until the warm weather and you can indeed divide it up!

To carry out this operation, it is best to let the plant dry out (slightly) so that the leaves are less brittle, then take it out of its pot, shake any loose potting mix away from the root ball and remove any old, damaged or very large leaves so that you can see the base of the main stem very well.

Now is the time to remove, with a knife, any side shoots which are obviously distinct. If the rest is a congested mass, you just have to take your knife in one hand and your courage in the other, and cut the root ball (and stems) according to how you think each piece will have just one crown.

You may well find that you have made some mistakes in cutting it up, but after all if you get one good rosette with its own root system out of the whole thing, you are no worse off. If the plant divides up easily into distinct plants, then any or all of them can be potted separately. Beware, however, as this is the way to end up with heaps more plants than you need.

When potting up each section, be sure to remove all traces of other crowns, all loose roots, and all outer leaves, keeping just the healthy leaves at the center of the crown.

Trim the root ball so that it will fit in a pot of appropriate size to the leaves and plant in good quality potting mix. Water, but don't fertilize for a few weeks to give the plant time to settle down.

Then, watch it grow (but be sure you remove any little sideshoots as they appear in future!).

*Reprinted with permission from "The African Violet",
Official Journal of the AV Assn. of Australia*

AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

Advertising Rates, Mechanicals & Deadlines

Deadlines

Jan/Feb issue	Nov 15	Jul/Aug issue	May 15
Mar/Apr issue	Jan 15	Sep/Oct issue	Jul 15
May/June issue	Mar 15	Nov/Dec issue	Sep 15

Mechanicals & Rates: One Column (3-5/16") Two Column (6-3/4")

REGULAR ADVERTISING

AD SIZE -	COMMERCIAL MEMBERS	ALL OTHERS
3 5/16 IN WIDE		
1 INCH	\$30	\$33
2 INCH	\$50	\$55
3 INCH	\$70	\$77
4 INCH	\$90	\$99
5 INCH TO 9 1/4 INCH	\$22.40 PER IN.	\$25.00 PER IN.
1/4 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$95	\$104.50
1/2 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$175	\$192.50
FULL PAGE BLK & WHITE	\$345	\$379.50
1/2 PAGE COLOR	\$475	\$522.50
FULL PAGE COLOR	\$595	\$654.50

Advertiser provides color separations.

Special - Buy 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free when all 6 ads are paid in full in advance. All ads should be same size. Content of ad can change for each issue.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

15 word/\$15.00 Minimum. Each additional word \$1; series of numbers count as a word. Purchase 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free. All classified ads must be same text and paid for in advance. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. **Deadlines will be the same as those listed for the regular advertising section.**

INTERNET WEB PAGE

Any advertiser who purchases six consecutive ads may have his business listed on the AVSA Web Page and also may have a "hot" link to his page if he provides a reciprocal link to the AVSA page. No process has yet been developed to place advertising on the Internet at this time.

Checks made payable to The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. (AVSA) must accompany ad copy. Agency commission and cash discount not allowed. Inquiries for color ads — contact Advertising Manager. You need not be an AVSA member to advertise.

Membership - \$30.00 per year - USA. Make check payable to AVSA. Membership check should be provided separately from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

VISA or MasterCard

AVSA now accepts VISA or MasterCard for payment of ads that appear in the AVM. Want to save some money? Prepay for five consecutive ads either by check or charge, and receive the sixth ad free. Advertising copy may be changed in this category.

Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial or non-commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant-related to qualify. This rule is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than those for our commercial membership. Unless the advertiser is already a member of AVSA, he/she would not receive a copy of the AVM nor be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1" ad Commercial Member	\$30.00
1" ad Non-Commercial	\$33.00

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$18.00 for ads.

Full page Black & White for Commercial Member	\$345.00
Full page Black & White for Non-Commercial Member	\$379.50

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$207.00 for ads.

Four-Color Advertising

The AVM is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes.

One Half Page Commercial Member	\$475.00
Non-Commercial	\$522.50
Full Page Commercial Member	\$595.00
Non-Commercial	\$654.50

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

Classified Advertising

- Looking for a home for your old copies of the AVM?
- Moving and don't have room for that third plant stand?
- Your club is selling violet key rings as a fund raiser?
- Small commercial grower: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the AVM?
- Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, do you settle for fewer appearances?

Why not try out a classified ad to address your situation? The classified advertising may be used by commercial and individual members, clubs, groups and non-members. AVSA individual members advertising in this section will not be considered "commercial" advertisers.

WHERE DO I SEND MY AD?

Regular Advertisements and Classified Advertisements

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Lane
Houston, Texas 77094-3412
Phone: 281-492-2034

Please leave a phone number where you may be reached.

MIGHTY MINIS

Jeannie Stokes

Over 600 varieties of Minis, Trailers,
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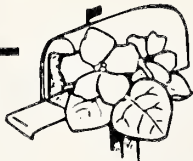
Tuesday through Saturday
California State License #D 2889.001

AVSA ADDRESS LABELS

African Violet Society of America
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lyons
38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057



To order: **PRINT** the name, street
address, city, state and zip clearly
on 3 lines (28 letters and spaces
maximum on each line). Mail your
check for \$7.50 to Bill Lyons at the
address on the label below. Orders
will be submitted every time 30
orders are acquired.



Alannah's African Violets

"Mail order specialists for award-winning African Violets"

**Best wishes to all exhibitors and visitors attending
the AVSA's Annual Convention and Show in Sacramento.**

We hope to see you there!

Established starter plants and fresh-cut leaves shipped thru October, weather permitting.

THIS SEASON WE LIST A SELECTION OF RELATED GERNERIADS.

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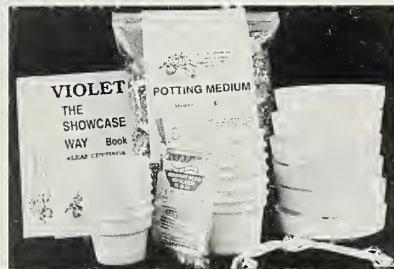




VIOLET SHOWCASE SPECIAL OFFER



Violet Showcase Plant Assortment - Six different standard sized starter plants will be chosen for you from our available stock when your order arrives. We will choose an assortment of leaf and blossom types and bloom color in each shipment. All plants will be husky, well-rooted, named, labeled varieties in 2 1/4" pots. A \$28.50 value - our choice of varieties - **only \$15.00** which includes packing and Priority Mail shipping, and a free catalog/list, or \$28 per dozen plants. *Minis, trailers, and variegated foliage types available upon request. We ship plants May thru October.*



Violet Showcase Basic Supplies Kit - All of the supplies necessary to try wick watering (a great way to grow violets!) PLUS step-by-step instructions. Includes a 1 oz. pouch of Volkmann Bros Constant Feed Fertilizer (15-30-15), a 3 quart bag of Potting Medium (especially mixed for wicking), 6 Volkmann Bros. wicking saucers, six 3" tub pots, six 3 1/2" tub pots, 6 yds of wicking cord, and our best-selling **VIOLETS THE SHOWCASE WAY** booklet. A \$24.50 value for **only \$15.00** which includes UPS shipping and handling, and a free catalog/list. We ship supplies year round.



Send for your free complete catalog/descriptive plant list of supplies and violets.



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3147 South Broadway - Dept AV - Englewood, Colorado 80110

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Membership Application

Application for Membership Recommended by _____ Mem. # _____ Date _____
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2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

Membership runs one year from date paid and includes 6 issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET Magazine.

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If you cannot attend the 52nd annual AVSA Convention, **SHIRLEY'S HOUSE OF VIOLETS** will be shipping as many orders as we can before leaving for CA. Listed below is a sampling of what we have to offer you in our new catalog. It is available for \$1.00.

HOBBS-GREGG - DEAN'S LUCINNE - Single to semidouble light pink blossoms with a darker pink band and a white edge. Symmetrical med. green and white variegated. SM

CROTEAU - IMPRESARIO - Semi-dbl mauve pansies with darker veining and raspberry edge topped with a geneva edge. Quilted Tommie Lou variegation. Standard

HANCOCK - BUCKEYE BEJEWLED - Semidbl lavender pink tones with raspberry and purple fantasy. Dark green, rose, pink and cream variegated foliage. Standard

SORANO - PRETTY POISON - Semidbl/dbl white pansies with variable light green markings and red ruffled edge. Medium green quilted foliage. Standard

ROBINSON - ROB'S SMARTY PANTS - Semidbl white ruffled stars edged in blue with pink speckles. Medium green, glossy, serrated foliage. M (Plants avail. in May)

NESS' - PIXIE GRIN - Semidouble mauve pansies with a delicate white edge. Symmetrical Tommie Lou variegated foliage. SM

HARRIS - FIRST ROBIN - Semidouble pink blossoms with a red eye and often with red tips top the dark green heart shaped foliage. SM trailer

Space does not allow us to give descriptions of all the lovely new varieties that we have available from Lambert, Delelles, Pittman, Stork, Brownlie. We also have favorites such as, the Wranglers, Apache, Rodeo and the best of Marie Burns and Sandra Williams. We also have a good trailer selection.

Plants are \$3.75 each with a minimum of 6 plants. Shipping is \$7.00. Shipping for over 6 will be 40 cents per plant. **LEAVES:** **SHIRLEY'S CHOICE** - Current and previous releases - 24 - \$20.00 or 50 for \$38.00. Current releases-24 for \$24.00. Shipping on leaves - \$6.00 for up to 50. Over this number add 10 cents per leaf.

We will begin shipping March 1 in most southern states. Other states when weather permits. Make checks payable to **Shirley Sanders**. Our address: 1034 Rayburn Dr., San Antonio, TX 78221. Telephone number 210-923-1093. Sorry, we do not accept credit cards.

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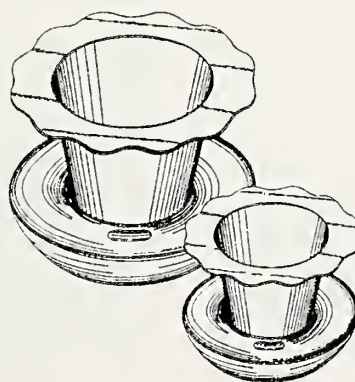
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Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 3" and 3 1/2" round tubs

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
7"	Wh/Gr	RS/PP	7.00	12.70	26.50	48.90	230.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
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FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4"	Wh/Gr	No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4"	Wh/Gr	With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
3"	Wh	\$1.75	\$3.40	\$7.00	\$12.50	6"	\$2.75
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

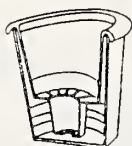
	Color	1	10
#1 Durable 25.5" L x 13.5" W x 3 3/16" D No holes	Wh/Gr	\$3.60	\$32.50
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	1.75	15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	1.75	15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	1.25	11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	1.75	15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide	4 sq. ft	\$1.60
PLANT LABELS	3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00	4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
3"	Wh	3.05	23.50	37.50	115.00
3 1/2"	Wh	3.45	24.50	41.25	120.00
4"	Wh/Gr/TC	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh/Gr	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00



MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.00	\$19.00	\$35.00	\$60.00

WATER RESERVOIRS for WICK-WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5"	3.00	12.50	23.00	53.00
To Fit 3-3 1/2"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00	
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75	
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25	
JUNGLE JUICE (2-5-4)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25	
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$2.00	12 oz./\$3.30	
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./\$3.75	2 oz./\$4.75	4 oz./\$7.00

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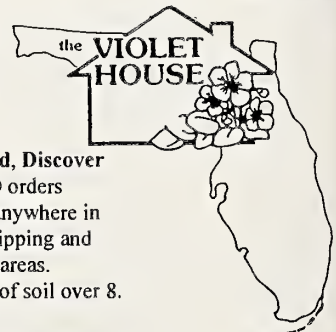
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ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	.4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
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Pot has holes for adding water

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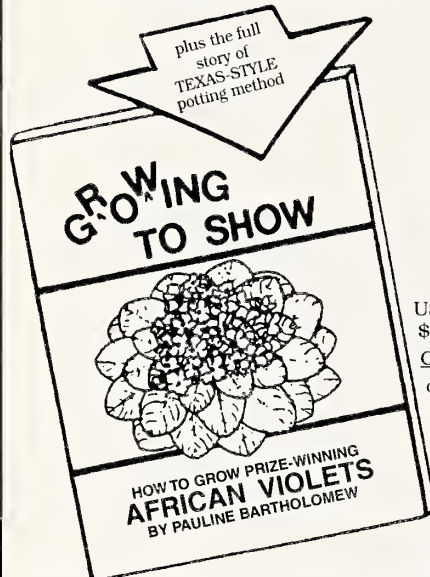
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3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
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African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

May • June 1998

Volume 51

Number 3



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AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

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FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$25.00. Updates \$7.50.

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OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

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QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

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African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

May • June

Volume 51

Number 3

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COVER

Rainbow's Quiet Riot

Best Fantasy
Best In Class,
1997 AVSA National Show
Exhibited by: **Phyllis King**
Hybridizer: **R. Wasmund**
Photo Credit: **Gus Francisco**



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OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
 3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
 10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: pwilson941@aol.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
 922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
 1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
 19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: jtcarter@worldnet.att.net

Jane Rexilius, Publications
 5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
 1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
 2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.





President's Message

Dear AVSA Members:

By the time you receive this issue of the *African Violet Magazine*, our annual AVSA Convention, "Discover California," will be over. I hope that all those who attended had a wonderful week discovering the beautiful scenery, panning for gold, shopping for gold in Old Sacramento and Nevada City, sampling gold jelly beans from the Jelly Belly factory, and of course discovering the many golden treasures in the Commercial Sales Room and the Show Room. As I write this letter, registration is about 400, with great participation in the tours and other activities offered. Details from the convention will be included in the July issue of the AVM, including the winners of the show and business conducted during the Annual Business Meeting and the meetings of the Board of Directors.

The office staff has been especially busy with convention registrations and member renewals. Approximately half of our membership renews during the first four months of the year. During that time, two magazines must be mailed. Therefore, it is very important that you get your renewals in early so you do not miss an issue of the magazine. The new computer system has made convention registration much easier since member address information does not have to be reentered.

Membership is always important to AVSA, just as it is to our Councils and Affiliates. We have several new members join every month. Many are the results of recruiting efforts at shows and sales sponsored by our affiliates. The number of new members responding to our web site is also increasing. However, we seem to be losing almost as many members who are not renewing. Our new computer system will help us analyze our membership retention so we can better address this situation. We all must make an effort to retain our members and encourage new members to join. This effort is much easier to address at your local level than on an international level.

Ruth continues to put together an outstanding magazine. The articles and ideas that you contribute are greatly appreciated. Please support our AVM advertisers and let them know that you have seen their advertisement in the magazine. This lets them know that their advertising dollars are effective. If you are a commercial member and do not advertise in the AVM, I encourage you to contact our Advertising Manager, Judy Carter, or refer to the March/April issue for advertising information. Revenue from AVM advertising has declined over the past several years, which means that the cost for printing and postage must come from elsewhere.

Traffic on the new web site continues to increase, thanks to the efforts of our Internet Committee. A new feature that started in late March is an African violet "Photo of the Day" page. Be sure to check this out whenever you sign on to the web. Many thanks to all who have provided affiliate contact information. The new *Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors and Judges* (Judges' Handbook) and the new *African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars* (MVL #8) are now available from the AVSA Office in Beaumont, TX and on the African Violet Store page on the new web site. Be sure to get your orders in early.

As you receive this issue, I will be completing my first year as your President. During that time, we have faced many challenges and have made significant progress on several projects. I want to express my appreciation to the members of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and the Committee Chairmen for their hard work and dedication. They devote a great deal of time and energy to AVSA. I also want to thank the general membership for your support of AVSA and all of our projects. I look forward to meeting and corresponding with more of you during the next year.

Happy growing,

Esther Edwards Wells
Esther Edwards Wells, AVSA President

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • *email* rrumsey@earthlink.net

As you make plans for your summer vacation, be sure to study this year's **Vacation Guide**, compiled for us by **David Buttram** (page 18). The Commercial Members who responded look forward to hearing from you. Thanks to all of our Commercial Members who support the AVM with advertising, and to our Advertising Manager, **Judy Carter**, for the fine job she is doing.

On page 42, find the second installment of our **Regional Reviews** for 1998, compiled by **Pat Richards**, our "Thinking Small" columnist. Once again, successful African violet growers share their secrets for success. Thank you, Pat for all the time devoted to compiling these reviews. In this installment, we hear from **Bev Promersberger** of Colorado, **Darryl Hoover** in California, and last year's sweepstakes winner at the National Show, **Phyllis King** of Florida. Others sharing their growing methods are **Palma Trapp** of Minnesota, **Irene Henry** of Canada and **Ken'ichi Okishita** from Tokyo, Japan.

These Regional Reviews will be an annual feature and Pat will be contacting other experienced growers to participate in this project. So don't be surprised if you hear from her!

I must thank all the affiliated clubs who share their publications with me. You've probably noticed how many articles in this magazine are reprinted from these publications. I hope some of these gifted writers will consider writing for the AVM, and I must appeal again to **all of you** to contribute to the magazine. We all enjoy reading the experiences of others in the AV world, as well as discovering new growing methods.

You will find a couple of good articles on trailers in this issue. On page 14, **Dr. Jeff Smith**, our "In Search of New Violets" columnist, shares **Some Experiences in Hybridizing With the Species - Trailers**.

Our "Question Box" columnist, **Dr. Ralph (Rob) Robinson**, is featured in **Notes on Trailing African Violets**. Given as a presentation at the MAAVS Convention in 1996, this one is for all growers interested in trailers.

Another presentation turned into an informative article is from a talk given by **Marie Burns** at the 1997 Dixie Convention. In **Growing Large Show Plants**, Marie shares her methods for producing those gorgeous plants for which she's so well known.

If you would like to have a photograph of an outstanding plant that appear in the AVM, either a winner from your club show or one that you've hybridized, please send me **color slide or transparency**. If you photograph such a plant, please make sure that only the plant is in the picture. Remove all name tags, and remove all other plants from the table so we don't have a busy background or leaves from other plants appearing at the sides. Please don't send photographs of plants, unless they are being held by someone and are destined for the "Members" page that we feature from time to time.

If you are responsible for your club's publicity, and are posting your future events on the AVSA web site, please remember to also send the information to me for the African Violet Magazine. And please adhere to the deadlines listed on the inside front cover, on the AVSA Business page.

Bev Promersberger, our Affiliate Club Chairman, is to be commended for the excellent job she is doing. Her Affiliate column (page 34) will be addressing topics important to all affiliate members. If you have questions, problems, or ideas to share, please contact Bev.

If you recall a favorite article from the past, that you would like to see reprinted, please let me know. As always, your suggestions or ideas to help improve this publication are always welcome.



Shows and Judges



Bill Foster
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
(972) 279-5993

Another great convention has come and gone. Those of you who were unable to attend really missed a treat. We owe a great deal of thanks to Barbara Elkin, Convention Chair, and her team, and to Jean Hatfield, Show Chair, and her team for all the work they did to bring a memorable convention to so many. We are also grateful to the exhibitors for bringing their beautiful plants and designs and to the judges, clerks, consultants, and awards committee for the efforts they put forth to see that the show could open on time.

If one just attends and enjoys a beautiful show and has never worked "behind the scenes" they probably have no idea of the vast amount of hard work it takes to bring this event about. If you enjoyed the convention and show, send a card to Barbara and Jean and let them share with all their workers that their efforts were appreciated.

Hopefully, many of you purchased your new Judges Handbook and Master Variety List at the convention. If not,

please order them from the AVSA office. You are sure to enjoy the new format of the Master Variety List, and the Handbook has undergone major revisions. Because of this, we strongly suggest that you purchase a new one rather than try to make the manual corrections to your existing copy. Page numbers have changed and some sections have been eliminated or revised so it would be extremely difficult and messy to attempt to update. The Shows and Judges committee is hopeful that this reprint will not need revisions for a while. We don't like to mess up our new books either! The 1998 Senior Judges Exam will be written from this latest revision of the Handbook, so if you are taking the exam this year you will really need the revision.

We will tell you about all the questions and discussions that took place at the Judges Breakfast and the Teachers Breakfast in the September/October column. Take care of your plants during the summer heat and we'll visit again in September.

"And the winners are..."



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA - Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Harlequin, Fredette's Moonflower, Bud's Melanie; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Semiminiature: Teen Thunder, **Carroll Gealy**. Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink, **Arlene Pappas**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Green Corduroy'; Best

Design, **Leslie Cox**.

TRI STATE AV COUNCIL, NJ - Best AVSA Standard Collection: Chris Leppard, Red Robe, Phantom Flash; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Definitely Darryl, Optimara Little Aztec; Best Standard: Red Robe; Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, **Gary Thurman**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Summer Coral, Grandma's Zach, Favorite Child; Best Design, **Rhona Thurman**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Red Bandito, Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Rob's Voodoo Blue; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Dean's Arctic Frost; Best Trailer: Cirelda, **Bob Kurzynski**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Christmas Holly'; Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn D. Cichocki**.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

In the 50 years that African violets have been extremely manipulated by hybridizers, these hairy-leaved plants with blue flowers have exploded into a rainbow of flower colors and foliage types. In our hobby's drive for anything "new", many types of African violets have come and gone. Hopefully, many of the plants from our heritage are being preserved as "Vintage Violets", but it is often interesting to hear the comments of growers who have been away from violets for a long time, such as the writer of our first question.

Q: *I have just recently returned to growing violets. In my 20 year lapse, I have noticed that there isn't nearly as much variety in the foliage as there was "back then". Why is this?*

A: Welcome back to growing African violets! There have been a number of changes in the plants over the last 20 years. I would suggest that "selection" has been the reason for the reduction in foliage types. Past growers of African violets wanted to have as many unusual violets as possible. Thus, foliage types such as longifolia, spooned, and bustled were eagerly sought and a large number of these plants were available on the market. Many of today's growers seek other characteristics in their plants, such as how the plant shapes and behaves when grown for show. Because the older foliage types are often more difficult to grow for show, they have been dropped from many collections. Those who grow plants to sell, generally wish to market those cultivars that are appealing to many growers so that they can make a profit. If the older varieties don't sell, they won't be grown. Over the process of time, "selection" has eliminated many of the more unusual foliage types from the market in favor of foliage that shapes well for show. Fortunately, many of the older cultivars are still appreciated by some growers and a thriving interest in the "Vintage

Violets" will help preserve these older treasures.

Q: *The first baby I've "made" from a leaf cutting has had its first bloom. The parent had rose-pink flowers, but the baby has flowers that are white with a yellow blush in the center. Is this baby a sport?*

A: When a new plant produced by a leaf cutting does not bloom true to the parent, there is a good possibility that a sport has been produced. However, I would recommend that the plant be grown through several blooming cycles to see if the bloom color remains different from the parent. Some of the light pink or rose flowered plants will produce near-white flowers under certain environmental conditions such as cooler temperatures. If the baby retains its new color especially when grown under several conditions, then it may be a sport. A further proof of sporting would be if leaf cuttings of the baby continue to produce the new color.

Q: *Can sports revert back to the original plant?*

A: Yes, sports will sometimes sport back to the original plant by reversing the original mutation. The genetic term for this is a "back mutation". This can occur in the first generation taken from the sport or several generations later.

Q: *Several leaves on one side of a non-variegated plant have developed streaks of variegation in them. Could leaf cuttings of these leaves produce fully variegated babies?*

A: African violets (and also other plants) will sometimes produce leaves or areas of spontaneous variegation. Portions of the growing center have mutated and some of the leaf cells are unable to produce chlorophyll, giving non-green or variegated areas. Attempts to reproduce the variegation usually fail because the

mutation is only in some of the leaf cells. However, do try to reproduce the variegation and see what happens. You might keep the petiole very short so that the new plants arise more directly from the leaf blade. This might increase the chance of getting a mutated cell to start the new plant and producing a fully variegated offspring. Let us know if you are successful. There is always room for more types of variegated plants.

Q: *How would I make a cross to produce a coral colored fantasy plant?*

A: You should be able to produce a coral colored fantasy plant in two generations. First, cross your best fantasy plant with your best coral plant. About half of the first generation plants will be fantasy, but will be in non-coral colors. Select the best fantasy offspring and backcross them to the coral parent. About half of these

offspring will be in coral colors and about half of these will also be fantasy plants. Therefore, about 25% of the backcross offspring should be coral colored fantasy plants.

Q: *How would I breed for green flowers?*

A: Green flowers should be a recessive mutation in African violets and is best expressed when in combination with white flower color. I would try either breeding green flowered plants together, or crossing a green flowered plant with a strong white. The offspring of this cross could be inbred or backcrossed to the green flowered parent. Green flowers are also temperature sensitive and the color develops more strongly in plants grown under cool conditions. You should grow any seedlings in cooler areas so that the amount of green they produce can be fully evaluated. Good luck!

TIMELY TIPS

1. Pay particular attention to watering of African violets in summer. Always check the surface of the potting mix even if you are wick watering. Sometimes wicks fail in hot weather leaving a dry plant sitting on top of a full reservoir of water.
2. Use a little less fertilizer in very hot weather (or occasionally use plain water instead of solution) to avoid burn of roots and center leaves.
3. African violets grow very quickly in the hot weather and will soon entwine themselves with their neighbors on the shelf. Try to keep them apart, even if it means occasionally removing a row of leaves. Overlapping plants will easily become distorted and lose their neat growing habit. If plants are too crowded they will also become a prey to pests and diseases.
4. Watch the centers of your plants for any signs of mites. They are always prevalent at this time of the year.
5. Plant leaves of any varieties you want to propagate. Propagation is much more rapid and reliable in the summer. Variegated types, in particular, should be planted now as they will be more successful if the plantlets are mature enough to be potted out well in advance of the winter.
6. If you plan a few weeks away from home during the summer, be sure to water all plants well and fill all reservoirs just before leaving. If you plan to be absent for three to four weeks you will probably only need a friend to refill reservoirs once in that time. If you remove all flowers before you go, you will return to fresh flowers and buds rather than to the job of removing a lot of dead flowers.
7. If you find your plants are becoming distressed on the hottest days, turn your lights off during the middle of the day. You may decide to run your lights at night rather than during the day during a real heat wave, but even if not, you will find it better to have the lights on less than have too much heat generated.
8. You should have selected any plants that are potential show entries by now. Try to make sure they have plenty of space, the premium position for light, and pay particular attention to their watering, fertilizing and grooming.
9. Take time to look at your African violets and enjoy them.

*Reprinted with permission from "The African Violet",
Official Journal of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.*

Question Box



Ralph Robinson

P.O. Box 9

Naples, NY 14512



Dorothy Kosowsky

712 Cunningham Dr.

Whittier, CA 90601

First, some good news of a personal nature. Of course, by the time this column appears, it will also be old news. But here it is - I've gotten married this past December, to a wonderful woman who just happens to share the same passion for violets. Her name is Olive, and those who've attended any recent AVSA convention may have met her. For the remainder, she's the nominee for international director to the AVSA board. As might be guessed, we met through our common interest in violets - both of us owning our own violet business. We now share one business as well as a life together. All of us grow violets for they joy the bring us - it seems they've brought the two of us more happiness than most.

As always, my busy schedule means that I can't promise a personal reply to letters or e-mail received. However, any phone calls made during normal business hours will be gladly taken since, with cordless phones, we can "talk and walk" at the same time. E-mail can be sent to robsviolet@aol.com or sent via our web site at www.robsviolet.com. The site also includes plenty of cultural information and basic "how to" lessons that may be of interest.

QUESTION: *I have an ongoing problem with the outside leaves becoming limp and soft, then dying. The plants never become large because of the constant loss of outside leaves. The plants are wick watered and are grown 3-5 inches from the light.*

ANSWER: This is one of the most common problems that we get mail and phone calls about. Though wicking can be a convenient and proper method for watering violets, it can cause problems if not done properly. Most often, the soil mix that is used is not "light" or porous enough for wick-watering. Too heavy a soil can lead to an unhealthy root system and loss of outer leaves. Since plants are being kept constantly moist with this method, a *very* light soil mix needs to be used. I would recommend a *soilless* (containing no topsoil) mix be used consisting

of 50%, perhaps more, perlite. A general rule of thumb regarding mixes should be: the wetter you plan to keep the soil, the lighter the mix should be. Though I'm not suggesting this, one could grow violets in nothing but perlite and vermiculite. I've seen beautiful (wicked) showplants grown in this kind of mix.

Though probably not the cause of the leaf loss, these violets are also receiving too much light. Lights should be much farther than 3 - 5 inches from the plant tops. Plants grown this closely, even if otherwise healthy, won't grow as large. Center growth will tend to be crowded and leaf size smaller. This is particularly true for most standard-size varieties, which need less light than do most miniature varieties. The distance from the lights will vary among growers, but this is ours: 10" from tubes to pot rim for minis (and semis), and 18" for standards.

QUESTION: *I'd like information regarding ratio of pot size to plant.*

ANSWER: Though this question came by mail, this is probably the most frequently asked question in the shop. One of the most common mistakes the novice grower makes is to pot their violet into too large a pot, assuming that every repotting means potting into the next size pot. Having said that, it's not true that an African violet needs to be "pot bound". What a violet needs, in fact what most houseplants need, is a pot just large enough to accommodate its root system. It is the size of the *root system* that determines pot size, not the size of the plant. The example I like to give is that of a cactus. It may be larger than the person growing it but its root system could fit nicely into a 8 or 10 inch pot.

Generally speaking, most standard varieties, when grown as houseplants (not for exhibition) will do quite well in a 4" pot. Most semiminatures can be grown in pots no larger than 2 1/2" and most miniatures in 2 or 2 1/4" pots. Since violets tend to be relatively shallow-rooted, azalea pots (pots slightly less deep than wide) are

preferable. Unless you notice that the root system is crowded in its present pot, there's no need to use a larger size. This would be the case if you noticed very dense root growth around the outside of the root ball when the plant is removed from its pot. No matter the size of the pot, violets normally should be repotted into fresh soil, at least twice each year. This will allow new roots to grow, keeping the root system, and therefore the plant, healthier.

QUESTION: *About a year ago at a show, I bought a beautiful chimera, 'The Alps'. It has bloomed profusely since then but now seems to be reverting to solid blue flowers. What can I do now?*

ANSWER: As a commercial, this is the type of question we get very frequently from growers. Often times a chimera, fantasy, or multicolor blossomed variety will turn a solid (or different) color, even though it was blooming "true" when purchased. Unfortunately, this is the nature of many such unusually-colored varieties. The same genetic nature of these varieties that makes them so unusual also makes them more unstable. In fact, many of the pinwheel-blossomed (chimera) varieties that are now available first appeared as sport, or genetic mutations, of a multicolor or fantasy-blossomed variety. Sometimes a chimera will revert to its original form - some of my plants of 'The Alps', for example, have also reverted to a solid color (in my case, white flowers).

The advice is preventative. Blooms are more likely to turn a solid (or different) color when the plant is stressed in some way. Most often this will mean too warm a growing environment and is a common problem during the summer for those growers without air conditioning. Less likely forms of stress include over fertilization, too much light, improper water or soil pH, or a toxic reaction to an insecticide or other chemicals. If you've grown the variety before, and it has a history of being unstable, or you can't provide a less stressful environment, a little "insurance" might be wise. Put down a few leaves (or crown, if a chimera) of those varieties that are most likely to "sport", keeping in mind that not all the plantlets produced by those leaves may be true in color. This way, you're likely to have young plants ready of the variety when the inevitable finally happens.

QUESTION: *The leaves of my violets are curling downward and center growth appears very crowded. There is no evidence of mite, and I suspect it may be the cold temperature in my growing area.*

ANSWER: This question has been paraphrased from two almost identical questions received on the same day. Yes, the problem is likely the cold growing environment. When grown in very cool conditions many violets will

exhibit symptoms similar to those of cyclamen mites. Center growth will be very tight or bunched, leaves will be more "hairy", and growth will be stunted. So before discarding any plants or using toxic chemicals ask yourself if cold temperatures may be the cause.

How cold is too cold? As with many things this depends partly upon the variety being grown. For example, many of the species violets will tolerate temperatures much lower than will the modern hybrids. Growers of *S. goetzeana* have been known to place the plant in unheated rooms or up against cold windows, since this species seems only able to bloom (then rarely) when grown in very cool temperatures. For most modern varieties temperatures above 60°F are usually enough, though barely so. For our showplants, we find the "ideal" temperature range seems to be between about 62°F and 70°F. Growth is slower, but leaf variegation is better, blossoms will be much larger and longer lasting, and the blossom colors will be much more intense and bright. That said, violets generally prefer the same temperatures that you do — "if you're comfortable, so is your violet".

QUESTION: *When I bring home new plants, can I repot them immediately into my own pots and soil?*

ANSWER: There are differing opinions on this. Some commercial sellers tell their customers not to do this in order to let the violets become accustomed to their new environment before changing pots or soil. I agree, but find that when I keep plants in different soil mixes, this eventually does more harm than good. Since soil mixes dry out at differing rates, these plants always seem to need watering at times different from the others. Unless their special needs can be accommodated, they always seem to end up being too wet or too dry. Speaking for myself, "special" care often translates into "not enough" care - i.e. neglect.

Before continuing, remember that it's always wise to isolate newly acquired plants as much as possible from the rest of your collection, while any problems that it might be bringing with it have time to show themselves. That said, probably the best advice is to give the newly acquired plant a short period of time to recover from unpacking (if its been shipped), and to get used to its new environment. This shouldn't take very long, perhaps a week. After this, there should be no reason it couldn't be repotted into a pot of the appropriate size and desired type with fresh soil, using the same mix as your other violets. Once this is done, it can begin receiving the same culture on the same schedule as your other violets.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

Mastering the culture of African violets is a little like going to school. Just when you have mastered one level, and think you're pretty smart, you realize there is yet another level to attain. Some drop out as soon as they complete elementary study, while others go on to get their violet diplomas. We'd like to encourage you to think about going to "violet college" too!

ELEMENTARY SKILLS

There are really only two elementary skills involved in keeping an African violet alive. You must give them enough light, and you must learn how much water is enough.

How much is enough light? In nature, *Saintpaulia* species (the original African violet) grew quite near the equator. The light was quite bright, but diffused by the overhang of other much taller plants and trees. They enjoyed a fairly consistent twelve hours of daylight in that setting. The violets we grow today seem to do best when that light situation is replicated.

The light needs to be bright enough to cast a distinct shadow, but it must not be direct sunlight that can cause the temperature to rise above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Some direct sunlight is fine as long as temperatures are maintained near 72 degrees. When growing at a window, it is generally wise to remember that most interior light is too dim for growing violets except for locations that are within arm's length of the window. Windows that are away from the sun (on the north in the northern hemisphere) will not be bright enough unless plants are right next to the window. Please note, that the light is automatically less bright in locations that are further away from the equator and nearer the Arctic (or Antarctic) Circle.

The length of the daylight is also very important. Nearly equal hours of light and darkness is what nature provided and so twelve hours of light is an excellent guideline. However, if the light is not bright, violets will need more hours of daylight, up to about sixteen. If the light is quite intense, violets can do well on as little as eight hours. In either case, the hours of darkness are needed! Important

AFRICAN VIOLET SCHOOL TIME!

Part one of a two part series.

things happen inside your plants when the lights are out!

Many violet growers like to use artificial light rather than depending on windows (where weather can greatly affect the quality and intensity of the light). Fluorescent tubes provide excellent light when they are set at a distance of ten to fifteen inches from the top of the leaves and kept illuminated from ten to fourteen hours a day.

You'll know that the lighting is correct when the leaves lay horizontally (as opposed to reaching upward) and when plants are frequently blooming.

Watering is the second elementary skill to master. You need to water enough to keep plants alive, but not so much that the soil is saturated and the roots have no air. While violets will tolerate almost anything between those two extremes, they thrive when the soil is kept evenly moist.

When watering each plant individually, you will find that once a week is often enough. Sufficient water should be applied to cause some water to drain out the bottom of the pot. This excess water should then be poured off. Using this method, one can be fairly certain that the soil was saturated adequately but not excessively.

As collections increase, it is often too time-consuming to water each plant individually. For that reason, many growers move on to a system that provides water to their plants constantly. Wicking, capillary matting, and specially designed pots all will perform this task successfully.

There are advantages to using some system for constant watering. Violets that are in full bloom will use more water than plants that are not blooming. Larger plants need more water too. Changing atmospheric conditions can also cause plants to need varying amounts of water. A constant water system will provide whatever amounts of water are demanded by plants. It is very hard to guess at these needs when watering each plant individually.

There are some disadvantages as well. Pests and disease can spread much faster when there is a common source of water. Even when the water reservoirs are individualized, there are problems as plants grow into one another more quickly. Since growers using this method do

not have to handle plants so often, disease and pests can invade unnoticed. It is also a nuisance when algae starts growing in the water.

The quality of water can make a difference as well. Softened water has salt in it which should not be used on African violets. Some communities have poor quality water supplies which have extreme pH levels or contain pollutants or salts that are harmful to plants. Reverse osmosis water systems seem to help, but many times the only solution is to purchase bottled water. Rain water is sometimes suggested but there is an art involved in collecting rain water. Insects, bird droppings, and other substances need to be flushed off the roof by the first downpour of rain before collecting begins. If the rain is gentle or drizzly, this flushing will not occur. Direct collection in open buckets can be used, but it won't yield as much water. Furthermore, if your area is prone to acid rain, you may not wish to use that water anyway.

Master the two skills of light and water, and you could drop out of Violet School right now. Your violets will stay alive most of the time and sometimes even look pretty good. Want to do better than that? Time to go back to school!

SECONDARY SCHOOL

There are three new basic skills to learn at this second level. You must learn how to use fertilizer, how to choose good soil, and what pots to use. Along with that comes the need to understand the finer points of your elementary education.

Fertilizer has miraculous effects on plants. It can also cause disasters. Violets will survive without these extra nutrients, but they grow and bloom surprisingly well when they are fed. Overdo it and the plants may die with surprising speed.

Plant fertilizers are formulated for specific plants in specific situations. Each type will list the three major elements contained in their formulation using a system of three numbers with dashes in between (15-30-15 for example). The first number identifies the amount of nitrogen; the second identifies phosphorus, and the third is potassium. The label may also list some trace elements. Additionally the label will identify the source of the fertilizer.

There is a lot of discussion regarding the best fertilizer. Some growers like to use high phosphorus formulations, while others do not. Most brands labeled for African violets will provide most of the nutritional needs of violets in most situations. Some have better formulations for trace elements, and some are made from higher quality sources, but virtually all are better than no fertilizer at all.

When using any fertilizer it is important to follow directions. Never use more than the package suggests. If anything, use less, especially when using a constant water system that permits water to evaporate, resulting in fertilizer concentrations that are too strong.

Fertilizers are all essentially the same. Don't be tempted to believe all of the "miracle" claims of plant products. Most are just fertilizers. Mixing them together and using them at the same time can cause overdoses that will result in fertilizer burn.

Getting the right potting mix is one of the more challenging skills of growing violets well. Violets require very light mixes if their roots are to develop fully, especially if a constant water system is being used. This porous texture is very conducive to improved flowering as well.

Garden dirt is rarely acceptable, especially because of the possibility of nematodes entering your collection in that way. Nematodes are insects that are commonly present in the ground, which can move into the root system of plants with fatal effects. Furthermore, most garden soils are too heavy for roots to thrive.

Instead, most commercial growers today recommend a potting mix that has no actual dirt in it at all. The mixes are a combination of materials that provide little nutrition to plants, but provide a good environment for roots. Most commonly in the United States, these mixes contain milled Canadian sphagnum peat moss (usually just called peat), horticultural coarse perlite, and coarse vermiculite. Other ingredients may be added (charcoal, wetting agents, or nutrients) but the peat, perlite and vermiculite are most important.

Peat is an organic material that absorbs water and nutrients and is nonabrasive around delicate roots (unlike sand). Its quality can usually be determined by its color—from light brown and coarse (excellent) to black and smeary (awful). Perlite is an excellent material to use when the soil mix needs to be loose and well aerated. Vermiculite will also absorb water and nutrients as peat does while providing good texture in a manner similar to perlite. The last two tend to be more predictably good.

Many other materials are being experimented with for potting mixes including Styrofoam balls, coconut fiber, rock wool, and polymers. As world supplies of the peat, perlite and vermiculite are depleted, it is likely that these alternative materials will be used more and more.

The recipe for combining the basic materials varies from crop to crop. Tall tropical plants need heavier soils to stabilize them in their pots. African violets grow horizontally so they don't need stabilization. Instead, the focus is on providing an extremely porous (airy) mix for the delicate root structure of violets. Using equal parts of each of the basic three (peat, vermiculite, and perlite) will give a very light, good quality mix for violets.

If you are using a constant water system, it is especially important to use a mix that is very loose so that the soil does not absorb more water than is good for your violets. Greenhouses growing violets that will be sold in various retail outlets often use a heavier mix. If you buy African violets from a local retail store, it is recommended

that they be transplanted into a more porous soil before wicking or matting is used.

Choosing the right pot seems so simple but it requires a little math skill. Measure the distance across the top of the plant to find the diameter of the foliage and divide by 3. That will tell you the correct diameter of the pot. In other words, the pot should be one-third the diameter of the leaf span. Why? Because African violets generally develop root balls that are only a third the size of the foliage.

How deep should the pot be? Generally the pot should never be deeper than its diameter and not more than four or five inches deep, even for the biggest plants. Violets have fairly shallow root structures that will seldom grow deeper than that.

Getting the pot to fit the exact size of the rootball will generally encourage your violet to bloom at the earliest possible age. There is a subtle relationship between well-developed and confined roots and excellent blooming. Maybe you've heard the old saying that violets like to be pot-bound. It's true. Get a good fit, and your violets will bloom better.

Does it matter what the pot is made of — clay or plastic? If your pots are made of a porous material like clay, the water will be lost more quickly. This is helpful if you tend to overwater. If you are going to use a constant water method, you should not use clay pots. Clay pots tend to develop annoying salt and mineral deposits which are exacerbated by wicking.

Plastic or glazed ceramic pots work well. Plastic is generally less expensive and easier to clean, although it is less decorative.

Once you've mastered these secondary skills, you are ready for your Violet High School diploma. Good work! Ready to quit learning? You know more than most of the public, and your violets are looking really fine most of the time. Do you know everything? Not even close! On to Violet College!

("African Violet School Time" will conclude in the July/August issue.)

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

The Booster Fund Committee would like to extend much earned kudos to the individuals and affiliates who sponsored some of the Booster Fund special projects in 1997.

We would like to congratulate the Tristate AV Council (NJ, NY, PA) for their generosity that enabled AVSA to purchase a memorial plaque to honor the memory of Lizeta Hamilton. Lizeta was a resident of New Jersey, a long time member of the Council. She was instrumental in starting the Building Fund.

Many "Thank You's" are extended to the affiliates from the state

of Ohio, for forwarding the money on a state level to replace the fax machine at the Beaumont office. Their enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

A distinctive applause to the individuals, friends and affiliates from the state of Colorado who sponsored the project to honor the memory of Nell-Sue Tyson. Nell-Sue was a resident of Colorado and a devoted Chairman of the AVSA Building Fund. A plaque will also be installed at the Beaumont property to honor her. Donations are still being accepted on this special Booster Fund project.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 5 DECEMBER - 31 DECEMBER 1998

Pikes Peak AVS, Colorado Springs, CO \$25.00

Towards the memorial for Nell-Sue Tyson

Anonymous, Hawaii \$50.00

Anna R. Noe, Winthrop, MA \$10.00

Mr. Lau Hin Cheung, Hong Kong, China \$10.00

Sweet Water AVS, Hauppauge, NY \$10.00

Baja Oregon Bloomers, Yreka, CA \$10.00

Edna Rourke, Shelton, CT. \$5.00

AOL AVC apply towards the technology drive

Amy Trept, Arlington, TX \$5.00

AOL AVC apply towards the technology drive

Pikes Peak AVS, Colorado Spring, CO \$5.00

Rebecca Tipton, Jonesboro, GA \$5.00

AOL AVC apply towards the technology drive

Pat Richards, Olathe, KS. \$5.00

AOL AVC apply towards the technology drive

James T. Kuczma, Sterling Heights, MI \$25.00

Ethel Spurlin, Mililani, HI \$20.00

Towards the computer upgrade

WI Council of AV Clubs, Menomonee, WI \$25.00

In fond memory of Helen Geisler

Pat Richards, Olathe, KS. \$10.00

In Memory of Inez Heinrich

Hi Country Judges Workshop, Denver, CO \$10.00

In memory of Albert (Stan) Stancliff

Irene Merrell, Oconomowoc, WI \$25.00

Towards the computer up-grade in loving memory of a great friend, Helen Geisler

Onalee H. McEven, Houston, TX \$25.00

Mrs. Orlando O. Sisler, Montgomery, AL \$10.00

Edna Snow, Chicago, IL \$20.00

Loveland Sweetheart Violettes Society, Erie, CO \$25.00

To be applied to the plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson

Irma Mejia, Woodbridge, VA \$10.00

Agnes J. McLaughlin, Coralville, IA \$2.00

AVS of South Bay, Cupertino, CA \$25.00

Mary Beall, Austin, TX. \$50.00

In memory of Mr. B. A. Wilkins, beloved husband of Dorothy Wilkins

Carroll R. McCarroll, Los Angeles, CA \$12.00

Stella A. Richardson, Riverside, CA \$5.00

Christine Davis, Harrison, ME. \$5.00

Frankie Pletzer, Beaumont, TX \$10.00

Judith Clendenin, Menlo Park, CA \$20.00


Bakersfield AVS, Bakersfield, CA \$25.00

Doris A. Jolley, Batesville, MS \$10.00

Helen Handwerk, Lakewood, CO \$20.00

To be applied to the Nell-Sue Tyson memorial

Total \$506.50



IMPORTANT NOTICE: Senior Judges

Senior Judges may apply for a renewal examination between May 1 and Sept. 1, 1998. Send request to Frances King, 3327 28th St., San Diego, CA 92104. Include check for \$3.50, (payable to AVSA) and proof of three blue ribbons earned on 3" x 5" card(s) as per AVSA Handbook. Allow three weeks for delivery. The completed examination for grading must be returned before Oct 1, 1998.

Those Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination, send check for \$3.50, (payable to AVSA) to Mrs. King. Also send the following items of documentation of eligibility per AVSA Handbook.

1. List of all judging schools attended, grades, etc.

2. Signed schedules of five AVSA shows judged, and

3. Verification of three blue ribbons earned recorded on 3" X 5" cards per AVSA Handbook.

Allow three weeks for delivery. Schedules and cards will be returned if a SASE is included.

Applications postmarked after September 1, 1998 will be returned and application may be made next year.

Completed exams postmarked after Oct. 1, 1998 will not be graded. Allow three weeks or more (after Oct. 1, 1998) for grading and return of examination.



AFRICAN VIOLET SPORTS

by Sue Gardner • Australia

What is a sport?

Sporting in a plant is a mutation or genetic change which produces a plant radically different from the parent plant.

What is not a sport?

A change in a plant characteristic that varies or reverts to the original is NOT a sport. An example of this is solid color blooms on a fantasy in hot weather only. Another example is when flowers or foliage are paler due to lack of fertilizer or light, or incorrect pH, but which revert when improved.

What does sporting produce?

Sporting could be a change in blossom shape, color or color pattern. It could also be a change in foliage color, type, shape or size.

African violets, are often called "genetically unstable" and this is why they sport quite frequently. Without sporting we would not have such variety in our plants.

Sporting produced the following African violet types:

White flowers

Double flowers

Variegated plants (Tommie Lou was the first in 1959)

Girl foliage (Blue Girl was the first)

Chimera

Yellow colored flowers

The yellow violet was caused by a change in a pigment as no yellow pigment was present in original violets. Sometimes sporting occurs in part of a plant. I have a trailer which has become variegated in about one quarter of the foliage.

If a fantasy becomes solid color and then leaf cuttings produce plants with solid color flowers, the plant can be considered a sport.

Often one particular variety will produce sports for many growers. An example of this is 'Colonial Port Arthur', which has sported to the same chimera for many people.

Always remember to name your plant correctly if it is a sport. Write the name of the original plant followed by the word sport (——— sport.).

The worst scenario about sporting is when a favorite plant sports to one not as spectacular. But the best case is when a lovely new violet is produced.

*Reprinted with permission from the newsletter of the
Early Morn AV Group, Inc., Australia*

Some Experiences in Hybridizing with the Species - Trailers

Dr. Jeff Smith

Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306

Over the past several years, I have been experimenting with the use of some of the *Saintpaulia* species plants in hybridization projects. The results have certainly been interesting from the scientific viewpoint, but may also serve as an indicator for the future of hybridizing in African violets. A good example of this future can be found by examining the results of some projects with the trailing *Saintpaulia* species.

Almost all of today's trailing African violets can be traced back to two species, *S. grotei* and *S. magungensis* var. *minima*. The original work with trailers was done by Frank and Anne Tinari with *S. grotei* in the early 1950's. The first trailers were standards which took a great deal of room to grow and had limited flower colors. Part of the difficulty in hybridizing the early trailers was that the trailing habit was usually lost when a trailer was crossed with a non-trailer. Only by repeated back-crossing to the trailer parent or breeding the offspring together could the trailer habit be maintained. Keeping the trailer habit while selecting for other traits such as flower color or blooming ability was difficult, therefore, relatively few trailers were developed. Unfortunately, the first trailers were released at the same time as the first double pink violets and the trailers did not catch the public's interest.

Interest in trailers didn't really get started until Lyndon Lyon developed a number of miniature and semi-miniature trailers in the 1960's using the species *S. magungensis* var. *minima*. This species is a miniature which allowed the resulting offspring to be much smaller in size than the hybrids developed from *S. grotei*. The trailing growth form also disappeared in the first generation, but inbreeding could and did restore the trailing habit as well as adding in other flower colors such as pink. This time, public interest in the trailers took hold

and has continued to grow. However, all of today's trailers can be traced to the same two species for the trailing growth habit.

My original interest in using other species for trailing growth form came from some plant material sent to me by Mr. Dave Rose. Dave had used several different species in some hybridization work, including the natural *Saintpaulia* hybrid 'Sigi Falls'. 'Sigi Falls' is a weak trailing species with small single blue flowers. The leaves are large, very thick in texture, and have a tendency to change color in the mid-rib during the day. A cross of 'Sigi Falls' X 'Sapphire Halo' produced some offspring with double blue flowers, but no trailing habit. A cross of 'Sigi Falls' X 'Fickle Flirt' produced offspring with single blue flowers, and a weak trailing habit. The leaves of the offspring from both crosses, however, tended to show the shape and other characteristics of 'Sigi Falls'.

One offspring from the 'Sigi Falls' X 'Fickle Flirt' cross is being further evaluated. This plant is a standard sized plant with weak trailing growth form. The plant is currently being grown in a saucer that is 17 inches in diameter. The plant has developed several trails and has totally filled the saucer. The petioles of the leaves are extremely long, some reaching 6-8 inches in length. The net effect is that the plant has taken on a hemispheric shape, while growing in a saucer only 1 inch deep. The lightly ruffled blue flowers are relatively large (1 1/2 inches) and are held above the foliage. Unfortunately, the flowers are single droppers, but they are produced in good abundance.

The most positive aspect of this plant is its ability to grow in so shallow a container. 'Sigi Falls' is reported to grow on rocks on the edge of the Sigi River. The ability of 'Sigi Falls' to grow on very shallow soil has apparently

been inherited by the offspring. The ability to grow in a shallow saucer allows this plant to fit under the lights of a plant stand, a problem in growing most standard sized trailers. If this growth characteristic could be maintained while improving the flowers, a new type of standard trailers could potentially be developed.

I also crossed the two 'Sigi Falls' hybrids together in an attempt to get double flowers on the trailing growth form. A mixture of offspring were produced. One of the offspring surprisingly turned out to have fantasy flowers, a trait it must have inherited from 'Fickle Flirt', but was not expressed in the first generation parent. This plant could be grown as a single crown plant (by removing the suckers), but is also showing a tendency for a weak trailing habit. A sibling plant has large double dark blue flowers on a similar trailing habit. Both of these plants have potential as standard trailers and are being further evaluated. Other offspring from this cross have a rosette growth form, but large dark blue flowers. Several have the heavy thick foliage of 'Sigi Falls' and might provide interesting traits for further hybridization work for standard sized rosette style plants.

Dave Rose also provided seed from a cross of *S. velutina* X *S. magungensis* var. *magungensis*. This cross promised to be interesting because it might produce a trailer with the rich dark hairy foliage of *S. velutina*. Almost all of the offspring were indeed trailers with *S. velutina* foliage. These results were interesting genetically, because they showed the trailing habit to be expressed in the first generation (F1), a very different result than the crosses with the previous trailing species. Most of the plants were semi-miniature in size, similar to the *S. magungensis* parent. The leaves of these plants were shaped like the *S. magungensis* parent, but had the hairy texture of the *S. velutina* parent. The underside of the leaves were especially interesting in that the veins were light green while the areas between the veins were dark red. This combination produced a very appealing striped color to the leaves, especially when viewed from beneath the plant. The flowers, however, were small blue single droppers which was not unexpected given the nature of the flowers of both species. The foliage, trailing habit, and plant size of the F1 plants were all desirable, but the flowers definitely needed improvement.

Some of the F1 plants were allowed to self-pollinate. The next generation or F2 offspring showed a mixture of traits between the parents, producing both trailers and non-trailers with various types and sizes of leaves. None of these offspring were particularly interesting, but a few have been saved for further study.

A cross was made between one of the best F1 offspring and 'Happy Trails', a semi-miniature trailer with double red flowers. The goal of this cross was to maintain

the trailing habit and plant size, the *S. velutina* type of foliage, and introduce double flowers. The offspring from this cross were all semi-miniature trailers. About half had foliage similar to *S. velutina*, although the number of leaf hairs had been reduced. The first several offspring to bloom, however, all had single blue dropper flowers. Eventually one offspring finally bloomed with full double dark blue flowers. While the leaves have some characteristics of *S. velutina*, they are not as "interesting" as the F1 parent. Perhaps a backcross to the F1 parent will reinforce the *S. velutina* foliage while maintaining the trailing habit and double blooms. Crosses are being attempted with this plant to several miniature trailers in order to introduce other flower colors while reducing the plant size even further. Eventually, a series of miniature trailers with the *S. velutina* style foliage in a variety of flower colors may be developed.

Another series of crosses have been done using a new trailer species (possible a new clone of *S. magungensis* var. *magungensis*) from the Mather Collection. This trailer, known as No. 21 from the Usambaras Mountains, has a good trailing habit, semi-miniature size, and dark foliage. Crosses were made to this plant with 'Cherry Cola' and 'Ness' Angel Glitter'. The seedlings have not yet flowered, but many are semi-miniature trailers with dark foliage. It is very interesting that trailers were produced in the first or F1 generation of both these crosses. This suggests that No. 21 will make a good parent to cross with non-trailers in order to introduce the trailing habit to the offspring in just one generation. Perhaps some of the F1 offspring will have good flower characteristics, but even if they don't, they may serve as good genetic stock for further work.

The results of the crosses discussed here show a number of potentials for the development of future trailing African violets. First, the use of other trailing species appears to allow the development of the trailing growth form in the first generation, rather than second or third generations as was done in the past. This will save time in combining the trailing habit with desirable flower characteristics such as raspberry edges or coral red flower color. Second, other foliage types, such as that of *S. velutina* might be added to trailers, increasing the variation and variety found in these plants. Third, the ability of some species to grow on shallow soils may be exploited to grow standard sized trailers in shallow containers. This may permit more growers to enjoy these plants, increasing their popularity. There are a number of other trailing species and clones that have yet to be worked with. For example, I have four clones of *S. grotei*, two of which are very compact in growth form. There are several clones of *S. pendula* var. *pendula* available, one of which is a very compact grower while two others are

good creeping style trailers. *S. pendula* var. *kizarae* is another species that shows some promise. Another new plant from the Mather collection is a large trailer with glossy light green foliage, which could be interesting to work with.

In conclusion, it would appear that a large number of new variations in trailers could be developed using these

other species and clones. For those who might think that nothing new can be developed in African violets, I would challenge them to reconsider and try their own hybridization experiments using these other plants. Whatever we have already developed in the rosette style plants should be possible in the trailers, and the use of these other plants may help us get there more quickly.



It Was Nice While It Lasted

by David Buttram
Independence, MO

In late 1968 two unnamed, nondescript African violets, one a small double pink and the other a double blue, started me on a long road leading to wonderful experiences and many friends.

By February of 1969 I had attended my first African violet show, where I was introduced to AVSA and immediately joined, so I could learn more about this fascinating plant. That same year, my interest in hybridizing was piqued by Reverend Charles Blades, later known as The Parson, and by the fall of that year, I was beginning to see ripening seed pods on my plants. The seeds were put down and for several attempts all the seedlings died.

Gradually I refined my techniques until the basement was overflowing with new plants of all shapes, colors and sizes. Admittedly, in the beginning, I had an overabundance of single blues and pinks.

During that time all my plants were at my parent's home as the basement in my home was not yet suited for them. I was not in a big hurry to finish my basement as the African violets seemed to thrive in the cool and humid conditions of my parent's house.

One night I was caring for the plants when I noticed an outstanding pink double bloom. It had a creamy smoothness to it and many buds on the first stalk. I was so excited that I broke off the stalk and ran upstairs to share the new found beauty with my family.

"Look here, Mom and Dad. This is one of my new ones. Just look at it," I almost shouted with pride and victory in my voice.

Mother spoke first, "Oh, that's so beautiful, son! Let me see it up close." I handed my pride and joy to her and stepped back.

As a flower lover, Mother instinctively raised the open bloom to her nose and inhaled. "And it smells so good," she said with a sigh.

"No, Mom, African violets don't have a fragrance," I informed her.

"Well, this one does," said Mother in a tone of voice mothers use when they are right and you are wrong.

Quickly, in fact, almost instantly, I began to see visions in my mind. With a backdrop of dollar signs, I saw myself walking forward to accept the Bronze Medallion at an AVSA Awards Banquet followed by a standing ovation. Then came the Nobel prize in Botany (do they give such an award?).

Seconds later, I was back to reality and asked Mother for the bloom. I inhaled a long, deep breath. Nothing. No fragrance. No hint of a smell as the dollar signs, bronze medallion, and Nobel prize quickly disappeared from my imagination.

"See, Mother, I told you African violets don't have a fragrance. Let me smell your hands."

Sheepishly, Mother sniffed her hands and weakly smiled. "Sorry, son, that was my hand lotion I smelled."

Just as quickly as I had gained all the money and awards, I lost them. I returned to the basement to finish watering the plants and appreciating the beauty God has given us.

The fame and fortune? It was nice while it lasted!

Remembering Alma M. Wright

January, 1998, marked the passing of one of AVSA's founding members, Alma M. Wright, of Knoxville, TN.

On November 8, 1946, following the first day of an enormously successful African violet show in Atlanta, GA, a group of ten enthusiastic growers met in the storage room of the H.G. Hastings Company, amid a stock of seed and fertilizer. A temporary organization was set up to explore the possibility of establishing a permanent society, which they did the following evening, with Alma Wright accepting the post of Secretary, a position she held until 1948.

As membership grew and bylaws were adopted, a decision was made to publish a magazine. Alma Wright was asked to accept the position of Editor of the African Violet Magazine, which she did. The first issue appeared in 1947, and only 500 copies of the 7" X 10", twelve page, black and white magazine were printed, all addressed to members by hand.

Alma Wright remained as Editor of the African Violet Magazine for 16 years, until 1963, guiding it through many changes including expansion, to accommodate the ever-growing membership of AVSA, and the extensive inclusion of color. She also served as the President of AVSA from 1949 - 1950, and was made an Honorary Life Member in 1950. Alma also served AVSA as Executive Director, 1960 - 1963, and as Editor of the first Master Variety List.

Alma made several contributions to flower and



Alma M. Wright

horticulture books and magazines. She served Saintpaulia International and the American Gesneriad Society, as Editor and Publisher, was a member of Garden Writers of America and served the American Horticultural Society as Vice President. Alma M. Wright can be found in many prestigious listings including Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, and Foremost Women in Communications, 2000 Women of Achievement, and the Dictionary of International Biographies.

In 1997 Alma made a generous contribution to the current AVM editor's office, which allowed for the purchase of a scanner. She also offered to be of assistance in any way, and was working on an article for the AVM at the time of her death.

Alma's legacy to the African Violet Society of America can be found in the many informative, beautifully produced issues of the African Violet Magazine, and her enthusiasm in the formation of this society which has brought thousands of African violet admirers together.

In Memory

NORMA MYLO LETO

Norma Myla Leto, charter member, died in January, 1998. A native of Guanaja, Honduras, she moved to Tampa in 1945. Norma was an active member of Tampa African Violet Society and the African Violet Council of Florida, and AVSA. Norma was president of Tampa AVS in 1983 -1984, had also served as vice president, chaired several committees and was librarian for many years.

PHILIP LYNDE HARDEN

Philip Lynde Harden died in January, 1998. Philip was a long-time member of Tampa African Violet Society, the African Violet Council of Florida, and was a life member of Dixie AVS and AVSA. Philip enjoyed helping "behind the scenes" at the Tampa AVS and AVCF annual shows, and for many years photographed and videotaped the shows.

FRED MOAK

Fred Moak died in February, 1998, following a brief illness. Fred was a member of Tampa African Violet Society, the African Violet Council of Florida, Dixie AVS, Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, Gesneriad Society International, AGGS, and AVSA. Fred served as Vice President of Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, and was Secretary of Tampa AVS. He especially enjoyed growing the "other" gesneriads and sharing them with friends. His passion was the African violet species.



1998 Vacation Guide

Compiled by David Buttram

As you make your plans to travel this year, be sure to include a visit to one or more of the African violet growers listed below.

This list is compiled from the responses received from

AVSA Commercial Members earlier this year. If appointments are requested, please comply by writing or phoning ahead.

With a road map and this list, you can have a rewarding trip this summer and fall. Please drive carefully.

- 1) Hemond's Greenhouse
Priscilla Hemond
21 North Verrill Road
Minot, ME 04258
(207) 345-3003
Hours: 9AM to 5PM
7 days a week
By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
- 2) Allegro Plant Tonic
235 Alps Rd.
Branford, CT 06405
(203) 488-8008
Hours: Mail order only.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale Supplies
- 3) Smith's Country Cottage African Violets
Mr. G.T. Smith
109 Ogden Parma Town Line Rd.
Spencerport, NY 14559
(716) 352-6445
Hours: 10AM to 6PM Mon.-Sat.
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Plants, supplies.
- 4) Champion's African Violets
8848 Van Hoesen Rd.
Clay, NY 13041
(315) 699-7317
Hours: By appointment
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
- 5) Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Inc.
Paul and Sidney Sorano
14 Mutchler St.
Dolgeville, NY 13329
(315) 429-8291
Hours: 8AM to 5PM Mon.-Fri.
10AM to 4PM Sat.
12PM to 4PM Sun
summer months.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Leaves, plants, supplies.
- 6) Rainbow Violets
1609 Michigan Ave.
Niagara Falls, NY 14305-2907
(716) 282-8936
Hours: Mail order only.
Remarks: Retail - leaves.
- 7) Violet Venture
Fay Wagman
52 Harper Dr.
Pittsford, NY 14534
(716) 381-6384
Hours: Anytime, by appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Leaves, plants, supplies.
- 8) Rob's Mini-O-Lets (The Violet Barn)
Ralph Robinson
7209 County Rd. 12 (P.O. Box 9)
Naples, NY 14512
(716) 374-8592
Hours: 12PM to 5PM every day.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Plants, supplies.
- 9) Violet Rainbow II
Melody Hartman
715 Kames Hill Rd.
Columbia, PA 17512
(717) 684-2169
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Leaves, plants, supplies.
- 10) Tinari Greenhouses
Frank and Anne Tinari
2325 Valley Road, Box 190
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
(215) 947-0144
FAX (215) 947-2163
Hours: 8AM to 5PM Mon.-Sat.
Remarks: Retail - plants, supplies.
Color Catalog . . . \$1.00
- 11) Violets and More
3217 State Line Rd.
Waynesboro, PA 17268
(717) 762-3576
Hours: Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 12) The Behnke Nurseries Co.
11300 Baltimore Ave. (U.S. #1)
Beltsville, MD 20705
(301) 937-1100
Hours: 8AM to varied closing time.
7 days a week.
Remarks: Retail - plants, supplies.
- 13) Violets by Nan Jefferson
1221 Mardele Lane
Winston-Salem, NC 27105
(336) 767-0785
Hours: Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 14) Carousel of Violets
1403-C S. Stratford Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27105
(336) 760-2898
Hours: 1PM to 5:30PM Mon.
10AM to 5:30PM Tues.-Sat.
Remarks: Retail - plants, supplies.
Leaves - if ordered in advance.
- 15) Bluebird Greenhouses
Elizabeth Glembocki
4821 Jessie Dr.
Apex, NC 27502
(919) 362-0530
Hours: 9AM to 12PM or by appointment.
- 16) Windy Farm
HC 2 Box 515
Madison, VA 22727
(540) 923-4227
Hours: 9AM to 4PM Mon.-Fri.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale - supplies.
- 17) Country Road Violets 'n Things
Ed Holst
P.O. Box 4871
Macon, GA 31208-4871
(912) 743-4720
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale - supplies.
- 18) Travis' Violets
Travis Davis
2064 Ellen St., P.O. Box 42
Ochlocknee, GA 31773
(912) 574-5167
Hours: 8AM to 5PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.

- 19) African Violets by Florals of Fredericks
155 Spartan Dr.
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 339-5533
Hours: 9AM to 6PM Mon.-Sat.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 20) Violets From The Starrs
George and Estelle Star
2602 Graupera St.
Pensacola, FL 32507-1637
(850) 456-2662
E-mail: gbstarr@juno.com
Hours: Anytime, call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Leaves, plants, supplies.
Major sales: African violet lamp.
- 21) Arlene's Violets & Cacti
6516 N.W. 65th St.
(mail) 213 Turkey Creek
Alachua, FL 32615
(904) 462-5607
Hours: Call for appointment, leave message.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 22) The Violet House
Bill and BeBe Edwards
1313 S. Main St.
Gainesville, FL 32601
(352) 377-8465
(800) 377-8466
Hours: 8AM to 3:30PM Mon.-Fri.
(Call to make sure BeBe's in)
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale - supplies.
- 23) H & H Enterprises
Mary V. (Jennie) Herrington
34 Oleta Dr.
Ellisville, MS 39437
(601) 763-9892
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - plants, supplies.
Ceramic self-watering pots.
- 24) Bayou Violets
Genelle Armstrong
1313 Gardenia Dr.
Metairie, LA 70005-1152
(504) 837-4037
Hours: Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves only.
- 25) The Blooming Violet Pot
Division of B & E Ceramics
11256 Cornell Pk. Dr. Suite 506
Cincinnati, OH 45242
(513) 489-3308
Hours: 9AM to 5PM
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Supplies - self-watering pots,
hand-painted, 3 sizes.
- 26) African Violets by Don Geiss
4957 W. Poverty Perch
Frederic, MI 49733
(517) 348-5657
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
- 27) Belisle's Violet House
4041 N. Metnik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687
E-mail: belislesvh@aol.com
Hours: Mail order only.
Remarks: leaves, plants.
- 28) Midland Violets
Don and Jean Ness
3667 Midland Ave.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(612) 429-4109
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
- 29) The Violet Showroom
310 N. Walnut
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 382-2554
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Leaves, plants, some supplies.
- 30) Pat's Pets
Gary Dunlap
4189 Jarvis Rd.
Hillsboro, MO 63050
(314) 789-3604
Hours: 8AM to 5PM Mon.-Sat.
1PM to 5PM Sun.
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Leaves, plants, supplies.
- 31) F Industries
HCR-65 Box 309-1
Pryor, OK 74361-9644
(918) 434-6768
Hours: 9AM to 5PM
Remarks: Wholesale - leaf supports only.
- 32) The Violet Showcase
Douglas and Barbara Crispin
3147 So. Broadway
Englewood, CO 80110
(303) 761-1770
Hours: 10AM to 5PM
(Closed Tuesdays and Sundays).
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 33) Violets of the West
6661 Upham Dr.
Arvada, CO 80003-3943
(303) 421-3195
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Plants, supplies.
- 34) Big Thicket Violets
Rt. 1 Box 312
Silsbee, TX 77656
(409) 385-3423
E-mail: btv97@aol.com
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 35) JoS Violets
Joanne Schrimsher
2205 College Dr.
Victoria, TX 77901
(512) 575-1344
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 36) African Violet Shop
J.C. and Lenora Munk
2015 Bauer Dr.
Houston, TX 77080-5524
(713) 468-0844
Hours: 9AM to 4:30PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 37) Hill Country African Violets & Nursery
Ken Froboese
32005 I.H. 10 West
Boerne, TX 78006
(830) 249-2614
FAX (830) 249-8658
Hours: 8AM to 6PM
7 days a week.
Remarks: Retail - plants, supplies.
No lists or shipping.
- 38) The Mini Mansion
212 Briardcliff Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78213
(210) 342-5442
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
- 39) Shirley's House of Violets
Sandy and Shirley Sanders
1034 Rayburn Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78221
(210) 923-1093
Hours: 9AM to 5PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.

- 40) Volkmann Bros. Greenhouses, Inc.
2714 Minert St.
Dallas, TX 75219
(214) 526-3484
Hours: 8AM to 4:30PM Mon.-Fri.
8AM to 12PM Sat.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Plants, supplies.
- 41) Volkmann Bros. Greenhouses, Inc.
3714 Old Settlers Road
Flower Mound, TX 75028
(972) 539-7714
Hours: 9AM to 5PM Mon.-Sat.
1PM to 5PM Sun.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Plants, supplies.
- 42) Hortense's African Violets
Hortense Pittman
7416 County Rd. #129
Celina, TX 75009
(972) 382-2571
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
- 43) Teas Nursery Co., Inc.
4400 Bellaire Blvd.
Bellaire, TX 77401 (inside Houston)
(800) 446-7723
Website: www.teasnursery.com
Hours: 9AM to 6PM
7 days a week.
Remarks: Retail - plants, supplies.
- 44) Rozell Rose Nursery & Violet Boutique
Billy and Carolyn Rozell
12206 Hwy. 31 West
Tyler, TX 75709-9738
(903) 595-5137
FAX: (903) 593-7956
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Leaves, plants, supplies.
- 45) Kachina African Violets and Supplies
15818 N. 52nd St.
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
(602) 992-1251
E-mail: KachinaAV@juno.com
Hours: 9AM to 5PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - supplies.
- 46) Hattie Baggett's African Violets
HCR2 Box 381
Tucson, AZ 85735-9714
(520) 822-5060
Hours: Weekdays, call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
Wholesale - club sales.
- 47) Lainey Ceramics
28506 Borgona
Mission Viejo, CA 92692
(714) 581-1464
Hours: 9AM to 9PM
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale - supplies.
- 48) Melvin J. Robey
53400 Eisenhower Dr.
La Quinta, CA 92253
(760) 771-3343
Hours: By appointment. Also mail order.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale, Supplies - AV
Books, buttons, pins, magnets.
- 49) AV Enterprises
P.O. Box 6778
Oxnard, CA 93030
(714) 972-3080
Hours: Mail order only.
Remarks: Book - "Growing to Show"
- 50) Phlogistics
Florence Naylor
478 Arcade Dr. (P.O. Box 1411)
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 653-5546
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - supplies.
Water Distillers, pH papers,
Nifty Scoops, growing aids.
- 51) Dyna-Gro Nutrition Solutions
1065 Broadway Ave.
San Pablo, CA 94806
(800) Dyna-Gro
FAX (510) 233-0198
E-mail: dynagro@aol.com
Hours: 9AM to 5PM
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale- supplies.
- 52) Mighty Minis
7318 Sahara Ct.
Sacramento, CA 95828-3905
(916) 421-7284
Hours: 9AM to 4PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
- 53) Mudhole Productions
870 Research Dr. #5
Palm Springs, CA 92262
(888) 549-8149
Hours: 7 AM to 5PM
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale Pottery
- 54) Kerry's Violets
Karyle A. Pasley
1140 7th Ave.
Gold Hill, OR 97525
(541) 855-7065
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Leaves, plants, no mail orders.
- 55) Henry's Plant Farm
4522 132nd St. SE
Snohomish, WA 98290
(425) 337-8120
Hours: 8AM to 4:30PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Wholesale - plants.
- 56) Crescent Bay Gardens, Inc.
51393 Hwy. 112
Port Angeles, WA 98363
Hours: Mail orders only.
Remarks: Retail - leaves.
- 57) Alannah's African Violets
Alannah Regan
Box 2
Danville, WA 99121
(250) 442-2552
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
Also gesneriads, geraniums.
- 58) Beverly's Violets
4178 Apollo Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99504
(907) 338-4510
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Leaves, plants, supplies.
- 59) Violet Boutique
John Deering
40 Pellan Crescent
Kanata, Ont., Canada K2K 1J5
(613) 592-3140
Hours: 9AM to 9PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Leaves, plants, supplies, ceramic
self-watering pots.
- 60) Aca's Violet-Tree
John and Doris Brownlie
600 Silvercreek Blvd. #80
Mississauga, Ont., Canada L5A 2B4
(905) 270-6776
Hours: Anytime by appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 61) Bloomin' Basement
224 Douglas Woods Point SE
Calgary, AB, Canada T2Z 2A7
(403) 279-3826
Hours: By appointment, 7 days a week.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.

DIVIDING AND CHOOSING BABY PLANTS

Celine Chase • Redwood City, CA

This is based on my experience in dividing and choosing a baby plant that will produce everything we want in a good plant, for home or show.

If you started with a good leaf, babies should be ready to separate in 4-7 months. Let plantlets be 2-3 inches. I like a leaf that produces 1-3 babies; they're stronger, shorter petioled, and more compact.

Very carefully separate the babies from the mother leaf. A sharp knife can be a good tool for this operation. If you used vermiculite, the babies are easier to separate and have more roots attached. Some babies may be a little too small to be alone in soil, so make a community planter using starter mix for these plants and leave until big enough to replant. Now compare your babies with the ones below.



- #1 This is the type you should save and care for. Note the center leaves, the compactness, and the good roots.
- #2 This has no center and will never have a crown that will produce bloom. Discard it, saving space for good plants.
- #3 A baby with a neck like this when it is little, will always be wobbly. This might be caused by the mix being too shallow for the leaves you set down so when the roots get bigger they pushed the babies up, thus forming a smooth neck that won't produce roots; at least not for me.

It pays to be choosy from the start. Why waste your time, money, and space on inferior plants?

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Northern & Southern CA AV Councils*

by Pauline Bartholomew • from "Growing to Show"

For African violets, clay pots have gone the way of the dinosaur. They were used in the early days of growing violets because they were porous and roots could breathe. When plastic pots appeared on the market, growers soon started using them because of their many advantages. They are lightweight, inexpensive, and easily sterilized. Clay pots are just the opposite, plus they have the added problems of algae and salts build-up and rapid water loss. However, growers had to rethink growing procedures in order to keep the fussy roots of African violets happy in a non-porous container.

This opened up a whole new field. Manufacturers worked to improve pot designs and growers developed lighter soil mixes and methods that would enable African violets to be grown successfully in plastic pots. As a result, giant strides have been made. We now have the benefit of unique new pot designs and the Texas-Style growing method.

You will need to know the terminology of utility pot sizes when growing African violets. If only one measurement is given, it refers to the

diameter of the pot. If an additional measurement is given, it refers to the depth of the pot. However, the depth of a pot is not usually specified. Short utility pots suitable for African violets are referred to as "tub," "squatty," "azalea," or "bulb pan". Tall utility pots are referred to as "standard."

Manufacturers' standards for pot sizes are generally as follows, but different brands may vary somewhat. Square pots are measured diagonally.

STANDARD: the depth is equal to the diameter

TUB or AZALEA: the depth is equal to three-fourths of the diameter.

BULB PAN: the depth is equal to one-half of the diameter.

Because African violets have shallow, fibrous roots, it is almost sure death to pot them in a standard pot. Since the inch or so of space at the bottom of the pot is unused by the roots, the soil stays wet and soggy. Thus, much of the aeration to the roots is cut off. You probably have heard of plants who don't like "wet feet" - well, African violets head the list.



NOTES ON TRAILING AFRICAN VIOLETS

Presented at Mid-Atlantic AVS Convention,
November 9, 1996
by Dr. Ralph Robinson, Rob's Mini-o-Lets

Select a Good Variety:

Look for varieties that:

- Branch freely with minimal pinching
- Produce "runners" with horizontal (not vertical) growth
- Produce dense, not sparse, foliage growth, i.e. produce "lots of leaves"
- Avoid semi trailing, "bush" - type varieties

What you want is a variety that will freely produce numerous runners, that will grow along the surface of the soil (rooting as it goes), and has densely produced foliage (no spaces visible). These varieties will have the best "form", and will grow best as a ground cover, since they will fill more horizontal space, more densely. Since each runner will produce bloom, more runners means greater quantity of bloom. Varieties that spread runners easily will also produce better distribution of bloom.

Getting Started:

Put down a leaf, or:

- Root a tip cutting in moist soil, keep covered for 3-4 weeks until rooted
- Upon uncovering, remove center - this may be the only time pinching is necessary

Potting Into Larger Containers:

You'll sometimes have to make your own. Always use shallow containers, never more than 3" deep, no matter what the diameter.

When?

Repot when trailer looks "overgrown" in its current pot. At this point the runners will be about to crawl over the pot rim. With trailers, however, procrastination can be a virtue. A plant that has been allowed to become very overgrown and "weedy" will fill-in a larger pot all the more quickly, since you'll have more long runners to work with.

Into What?

A shallow container. From a 2" pot (for the starter plant), pot into a 3" tub, then into a 5" pan pot. Beyond this, shallow pots (depth less than 3") can be hard to come by. I use 8" and 10" saucers, and drill holes into the bottom for drainage. Another solution is to cut a large standard pot down to 2-3" in depth (I use a hacksaw, and file away the rough edges).

Other Hints

Use a very light, porous soil. It will take time for the runners to root and fill a large pot. A heavy, wet soil makes it more likely that roots (and runners) will rot before the additional soil is filled with roots. Tightly packing soil into the pot will give you a firm surface for the runners to crawl along. If the plant is too loosely potted, the soil level will sink over time, losing contact with runners. You might also want to press (or pin) runners into the soil to promote rooting, which is more easily done into firm soil.

Grooming:

How to promote dense growth and good form.

Thinning out foliage

For dense foliage, the small, immature runners (the tiny suckers appearing along the existing runners) need a chance to develop. You want long runners growing from other long runners! For this to happen, you need to "thin out" foliage making the growth less dense now, so that it will be more dense later. This allows more light to reach the small, developing runners so that they can begin to mature. Thinning will give you dense undergrowth so that the plant won't show those ugly bare stems as it becomes older. Always remove immature, oversized, off-color, or damaged leaves. Don't be squeamish - unlike other violets, trailers will quickly fill-in any "gaps" in symmetry (form) that have momentarily been created.

Shaping the plant

A trailer with good form has a smooth, rounded appearance. If looked at in profile, it should have a smooth edge, without a jagged, spiked look, much like a just-trimmed hedge. To achieve this look, remove vertical growth and leaves competing for the same space. These are leaves that, because there isn't room enough for the both of them, are pressed against each other, not allowing either one to lay flat. Since one leaf will occupy this space as well as two, removing the second allows the first to grow in a more natural, flat position. Remember that you want trailers to occupy horizontal space.

Placement of runners

Good form also means that the plant is round (circular)

in shape when viewed from above. Ideally, you would like runners to be of an even length and evenly distributed around the pot. This will give you even distribution of foliage and bloom. If not, runners can be moved so that this is the case. This is most easily done when potting into a larger container. Simply move the runners equidistant around the pot, and fill as much space as possible. Press runners into the (firm) soil surface. If they're stubborn and don't want to stay where you've placed them, "pin" them down using U-shaped wire (like the end of a paper clip). For the pin to hold, the soil must be firm (you may want to "barb" the ends of the pin).

Filling in bare spots

Occasionally, a "bare spot" will appear where foliage is lacking. To fill in these areas, new growth needs to be encouraged there. If possible, move an existing runner (pinning if needed) to the bare area. You may also want to pinch (remove the tips of) existing runners surrounding the bare area to promote additional runners to grow into the area.

Growing for sho.

No special care, but a few helpful pointers.

What judges look for

Form (symmetry) - 25 points, has been discussed extensively already. Condition (cultural perfection) - 25 pts. Basically, this is the result of good cultural habits-i.e. "tender loving care". This means removing discolored or damaged leaves and spent blooms. A clean plant and container is also part of good cultural habits. This also means no bare stems (necks), "nubs" (from incompletely removed leaves and blossom stems), etc. Thick, dense foliage covers up a multitude of problems. What the judges can't see, can't be deducted. Quantity of bloom - 25 pts. Because good trailers will produce many runners (crowns), they have the potential for a tremendous quantity of bloom. Very simply, a plant with 30 crowns has the potential for 30 times the number of blooms of a single - crowned plant. Bloom should also be evenly distributed about the plants among the crowns. Size and type, and color of blossom, 15 and 10 pts., respectively. These should be consistent with the variety description. Since a trailer in full bloom should have more than enough bloom, always remove any blossoms that are questionable in terms of color, size, or freshness. Again, judges can deduct for these flaws only if they are allowed to see them.

Selection of plants for show

Choose a good variety and start with the healthiest plants exhibiting the best habits. Set aside those plants that most freely produce runners (you'll need a minimum of

three crowns to exhibit a trailer), evenly around the pot.

Repotting

Repot trailers 4-5 months prior to the date of the show. If the plant isn't ready for a larger container, repot into the same size container in fresh soil. Repot whether it needs it or not. By doing it now you won't have to do so just prior to the show. It's better to risk damaging the plant 4 months before the show than a month prior, when mistakes are harder to correct. Be sure that the container is just large enough to be completely filled with foliage by the show date.

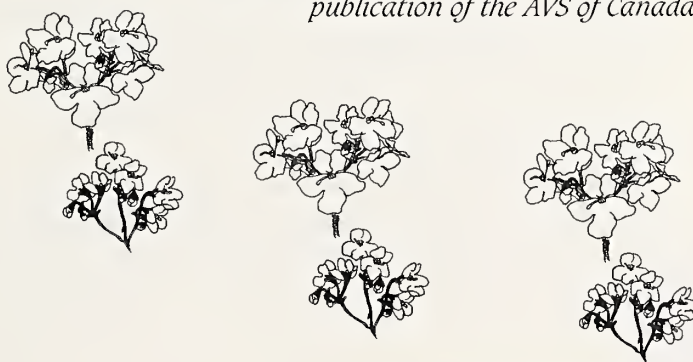
Severe pruning

Upon repotting, severely prune foliage from the plant, leaving only the very tips. Remove all remaining foliage. What should be left are bare runners on (or pinned into) the soil surface, with only a few leaves on each runner's end(s). The plant should look ugly at this point. This doesn't matter since it's not being judged now. By doing this, all new foliage will be allowed to grow, so that at show time, none of the leaves will be more than a few months old! Growth will also be denser and more uniform after having been pruned in this manner (it will grow back more quickly than you think). Remember - ugly now means beautiful later!

Disbudding

Most good trailing varieties will bloom heavily with little or no encouragement, so that disbudding isn't necessary to induce heavy bloom. But, disbudding will allow foliage to develop more quickly and completely. Again, ugly now and beautiful later. Disbudding also allows you to time the emergence of buds and bloom so that, on the show date, the plant has the maximum number of fresh blossoms. Begin disbudding immediately upon repotting and pruning, and continue to disbud until 6-10 weeks before the show date. Allow more time under cooler, less time under warmer, conditions. The precise timing will depend a bit upon the variety, but most trailers are such prolific bloomers by nature, precision here is less important than with other violets.

*Reprinted with permission from "Chatter",
publication of the AVS of Canada*



Soil & Potting Mixtures

by Mary Walbrick • Wichita Falls, Texas

Growing African violets successfully depends in great measure on how well you provide a good environment for them. One of the most important elements is the potting mix. When selecting a potting mix, consider the cultural conditions that may affect your mixture, such as sunlight or fluorescent light, wick watering, top-watering automatic watering containers. Humidity, as well as growing space plays a part in success, also.

You can learn about many of these growing elements from the experiences of others and by reading articles in various books and magazines devoted to African violets. It may take some time and experimentation before you "discover" the right ingredients for the best mix for use in your environment. The following requirements are a must and cannot be overlooked when choosing a mix for your African violets.

THERE ARE FIVE MIX REQUIREMENTS

These five properties must be provided in every good potting mix.

- 1) It must be free of soil insects and diseases harmful to houseplants.
- 2) It must be slightly acid with a pH of 6.4 - 6.9.
- 3) It must have good drainage and not become easily waterlogged.
- 4) It must not pack, but remain loose and porous so air and water can reach the roots.
- 5) It must contain organic matter for holding moisture and fertilizer nutrients.

MIX INGREDIENTS

Consider these materials for a potting mix and the benefits that each ingredient provides.

SPHAGNUM PEAT MOSS is probably the best source of good organic matter, is coarse, resists decomposition and holds moisture well. Other types of peat are less satisfactory because they are too fine, tend to compact and get soggy rather quickly. Sphagnum peat moss in the mixture serves as a reservoir for both water and nutrients and contributes acidity to the mix as it decomposes.

VERMICULITE and PERLITE are relatively inert, coarse, bulky materials that resist compacting and keep the mix loose and well aerated.

Vermiculite provides water and nutrient holding capacity and has a high buffering capacity that slows the changes in the pH. It also permits higher fertilization rates, and of itself provides some potassium, calcium and

magnesium. Its scaly structure is easily broken in handling. This can cause compacting and water logging.

Perlite does not break up easily and has little capacity to hold nutrients or to buffer pH and has no nutrient value. Perlite is better for aeration of the mix. Both vermiculite and perlite are manufactured by heat processes, which sterilize them.

HUMUS and GARDEN SOIL provide plant nutrients but must be pasteurized to kill insects, pests and diseases harmful to plants. Material is generally composed of sand, silt, clay and organic matter. The organic matter results from decomposition of vegetable and animal matter that is vitally important because it is the home of millions of beneficial bacteria necessary to plant life.

Addition of humus or garden soil is normally limited to mature African violets. The majority of growers use very little and depend upon soilless mix and fertilizer to produce show quality plants.

CHARCOAL has the capacity of absorbing and holding nitrogen until the plant can use it. One grain can absorb 80 times its own bulk of organic nitrogen given off in the soil by the breakdown of various plant foods. This gas is volatile and easily lost from the soil. Charcoal also destroys injurious acids, absorbs other undesirables and keeps the soil sweet while keeping the pH level of the soil from becoming dangerous. The value of charcoal cannot be overemphasized.

DOLOMITE LIMESTONE is a rock flour containing phosphorus and calcium with numerous trace elements. It reduces acidity in a mix. When limestone contains 30% or more magnesium it is called dolomite. Never use other types of limestone. They are extremely hot and will burn plant roots.

African violets are light feeders - do not overdo by adding fertilizers to your mix. Too much will injure or kill your plants. Soilless type potting mix proportions are commonly 1-1-1: one part sphagnum moss, one part vermiculite, and one part perlite.

You will quickly learn that there are as many formulas for potting mixes, as there are growers. Some are great, some are good, and some are not so good. Experimentation will be necessary to determine which potting mix is best for your growing conditions.

*Reprinted with permission from
the Lone Star AV Council Newsletter, Texas*



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

Cape Cod Violetry

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Falmouth, MA 02540
508/548-2798

Selective Gardener Catalog

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Tinari Greenhouses

2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215/947-0144

Innis Violets

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617/334-6679

Teas Nursery

P.O. Box 1603
Bellaire, TX 77402-1603
713/664-4400

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516/589-2724



Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

Beryl Gardner from Australia advises, *"While I consider it to be very important to read as much as it is possible to lay one's hands on, we must always remember that the conditions under which one is growing are unique to oneself. Just because someone else grows under lights, for example, doesn't mean that it is not possible to grow elsewhere. This is particularly so in a climate like ours where so much can be grown outdoors. Last year I put a Columnea out where it was in full sunlight, during winter. Its leaves bleached only a little. Then it was in partial shade, but very bright light for the summer. I have never had a pot so thick with growth, or so full of flower for so long. It was, I think, C. 'Comanche.' I have grown large sinningias in the ground in the sun for many years."*

"We are plagued with ants in the garden at present, despite powder and spray. I've never known them to be so bad. The relation of the presence of ants to the need to be alert for mealy bugs is one item I had to learn the hard way."

I wholeheartedly agree with Beryl's observations. I grew *Aeschynanthus* in an apricot tree in California. In the winter it got full sun since the apricot's leaves dropped. In summer it was protected by leaves and hit by apricots which may have given it a boost of nutrients because the plant was loaded with blossoms! Beryl's comments about ants also hit home. Many of us have ant problems indoors when there's a lot of rain. We all know El Niño has caused tremendous rains this year in the U.S. In the rainy season in California, I'd find some of my indoor pots filled with ants. Then, about 3 months later I'd have a foliar and soil mealy problem. I had to put trays of water under the pots so the ants would stay out.

When asked, "What do you wish someone would have told you when you first started growing gesneriads?" **Jackie Jones** from Iowa responded, *"I would have liked more 'beginner' information. Which would be easiest to grow and which would need more humidity in order to do*

well would have been two questions. I'd have liked more information about the growth habits.

"If something does not fit my violet pattern of watering, fertilizing and temperature, they are not welcome. I have neither space or time to devote to them. Some chiritas seem content with us, and miniature sinningias tolerate our wick watering.

"Sinningia Cardinalis 'Salmon' grown from seed is outgrowing us and giving no indication of bloom so won't be given space much longer. Chirita subrhomboides is sulking somewhat by having damaged lower leaves and spotted areas, so something is not right".

Again, Jackie's right on target. If a plant doesn't grow well or bloom in your environment, there are plenty of other violets and gesneriads that will. Give uncooperative plants away.

By the time many of you get this magazine the AVSA California convention will have ended. Are your newly acquired convention plants in isolation? PLEASE isolate your plants by whatever means you can, even if you have to buy an angel food cake at the grocery store in order to have a large plastic container.

I clean cut plant leaves of *Chirita*, *Columnea* and *Streptocarpus* by spraying them with rubbing alcohol and rinsing them off within 90 seconds. Don't get alcohol on the leaf stem. I throw away the soil and pot the tops of other plants after washing them thoroughly in 1 tablespoon of powdered Ivory Snow mixed with one gallon of room temperature water. Try not to let sudsy water in the cut stem. In the same solution I wash tubers and rhizomes as best I can. Rinse everything thoroughly. Isolate for a minimum of 3 months. When you are brave enough to introduce the plants in your plant room, have them all on one shelf and watch them carefully. Sometimes mealy bugs don't show in high humidity environments as is produced when plants are isolated in plastic containers or bags, but once the plant is stressed by being out in the open, mealybugs appear.

Grooming is more Important than you Think!

by Sue Hoffmann • Virginia Beach, VA

Showtime is quickly approaching. You've been watering, fertilizing, increasing your light time. Hopefully, your plants are beginning to reward you with buds. Blossoms are important, but quantity of bloom is only 25 percent of what the judges consider. Let's take a look at how they evaluate your plant.

Symmetry constitutes 25 percent of the points. Place your plant on the floor and look at it from the top to assess the shape and evenness - or "spokes of the wheel." Remember that African violets grow in sets of three leaves. Look for these sets when checking symmetry.

Size and type of blossom is worth 15 points and color of blossom makes up the remaining 10 percent.

You should always check the Master Variety List (MVL) to verify the plant is growing true to description — the correct type of bloom (single, semidouble, double), the correct color, and the correct size (if noted). Right away you know whether your plant qualifies for these 25 points. If your plant is described as an edged blossom and is growing solid, it can automatically lose up to 10 points. You have 15 points riding on a single blossom that is listed as a double in the MVL.

Grooming can make or break a plant, and there are several things you should know. AVSA sponsored shows are merit judged by point scoring. That means simply that each plant is judged individually. You start with 100 points and deduct points for specific shortcomings. If your final score is 90-100 you merit a blue ribbon, 80-89 merits a red ribbon, and 70-79 merits a white ribbon.

Now we've looked at where all the points are:

symmetry	25
condition (cultural perfection)	25
quantity of bloom	25
size and type of blossom	15
color of blossom	10

Let's look at specific examples of why points are deducted. This is where grooming plays a big role.

Start with symmetry. **Up to 3 points can be deducted**

for each instance of: gaps/spaces between leaves or rows of leaves, breaks in symmetry of leaf pattern, uneven foliage distribution, over/under potted (spread 3 times the pot width), long neck, or plant not being centered in the container.

Condition encompasses one quarter of the total points. Although not as many points are deducted for these flaws, they can add up quickly. Remember these are for *each occurrence*. **Deduct up to 1 point for:** marred, broken, dead, yellow, bleached leaves; petiole/peduncle stubs; suckers not completely removed; smaller leaves under outer row; dust, soil, traces of spray. **Deduct 1 full point for:** seed pods (enlarged pistils should not be confused with seed pods). Each of these flaws can be avoided through careful grooming! Include the first item on the list below. Don't leave spent blossoms on a plant, thinking they will make up for lack of blooms. It's better to have a fresh looking plant, than a "wilted" one.

Deduct 1/2 point per blossom for: each spent bloom; not enough blossoms for plant size; type of blossom not constant or true to variety (single, double, etc.); each solid color blossom instead of multicolor blossom.

Variegation is another area to watch. Any variegated variety with no variegation showing is automatically reduced to a red ribbon.

Examine the pointers above. They can be valuable as you look your show plants over and groom them. A marred or broken leaf will cost you up to one point. If you decide to remove it, remember to remove all three leaves in that set. A gap created by taking only one leaf can result in a three point penalty.

Also remember to remove the immature outer leaves. This is one of the most frequent misconceptions I've run across. Growers believe these "extra leaves" will add size (and beauty) to their plant, when in fact it detracts from the overall attractiveness.

Take a little extra time with grooming this year, and I guarantee you will be rewarded.

Stained Glass

Hybridized by:
E. Wasche
Large



Streptocarpus *'Rose Bud'*

Exhibited by:
Tony Hullerman
1997 AVS of Canada
National Show
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky





*Rebel's
Valiant*

*Hybridized by:
R. Bann*



*Quiet
Accord*

*Hybridized by:
B. Elkin
Semiminiature*

Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

Horticulture takes a break this issue as design takes center stage. Professional designers and people who really know what you're doing, bear with me. People with artistic talent, I am shamed! I know I'm treading dangerous ground here, but remember my goal today is not necessarily to provide a primer on design, but to encourage the use of small ones in design.

DESIGN TYPES

In most of our affiliate shows, there are three types of designs: interpretive plant arrangements, interpretive flower arrangements, and container gardens. Small ones can be used very nicely in the preparation of any of these designs.

Container gardens have plant material that is live and growing in the container. There are no dried or artificial plant materials allowed. **Jackie Jones**, designer extraordinaire and AVSA Master Judge from Iowa, teaches the importance of SCALE, SCALE and SCALE when working with container gardens because they are miniature landscapes intended to duplicate nature. For this reason, small ones are ideal in these arrangements.

Interpretive plant arrangements are designs where the entire violet plant is used but is removed from its growing container and arranged with other fresh cut or dried plant material. Here again, basic design principles would lead us to believe use of a standard African violet implies a bottom-heavy design. Use of the small ones however allows us to elevate the plant material, perhaps making the design less heavy and more airy.

Because only the flower blossoms are used in Interpretive flower arrangements, they are not as natural for small ones. African violets should be the focal point in designs. To create this effect a lot of blooms, or very large and vibrantly colored blooms are necessary, with the exception of one type of design: the small or miniature designs. It is here that small ones with their smaller blooms and shorter peduncles really shine!

BASIC RULES: RULE OF THREE, KEEP IT SIMPLE, AND AFRICAN VIOLETS AS FOCAL POINT

Creating designs can be made more simple provided you remember the rule of three. Always remember, designs look more whole, complete and balanced if there are an odd number of blossoms, divisions, or materials used, three being the simplest and easiest number to work with. To better explain this, I recommend you go to your local library and check out a few books on oriental design. In such designs, there are always three elements: the top most (representing the heavens), the middle (man) and earth (the lowest part). These designs are pure, simple creations of sheer beauty, and can be used as a model for any design. This drawing shows how these three elements can be placed:



The second rule is enunciated by elite Kansas City designer and violet club member, **Patty Hart**, whose designs rival the best I've seen in this country. She teaches the "keep it simple" rule: when you think your design needs something more, you probably need to take something out. All of which points to oriental designs: simplicity, purity and clarity of theme go a long way toward creating a blue ribbon design. Overindulgence creates confusion, distraction and overall, a poorly created design.

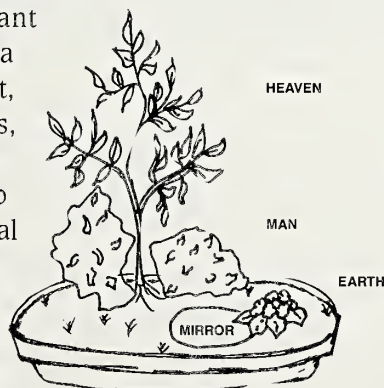
Finally, because we are promoting use of African violets, they should be the focal point of the design, and particularly for beginners, I would go further and recommend African violets be the dominant feature of a design. How is the focal point determined?

Again, I return to one of **Patty Hart's** tests: squint and whatever you see is the focal point. If it's not the violets either you don't have enough of them in your design, they're too scattered, or their color is lost within all else that's going on in the design. On the other hand, if you squint and the primary object you see is either an African violet or a grouping of African violet blooms, then you've succeeded brilliantly! How do violets become the focal points? Color is a wonderful method: use brightly colored blooms in a mass, chain or triangle of seemingly connected blooms. Contrast is another method, where the blooms are separated from foliage and backdrop by well-chosen use of color and/or textured materials.

SMALL ONES IN CONTAINER GARDENS FOR HOME AND SHOW

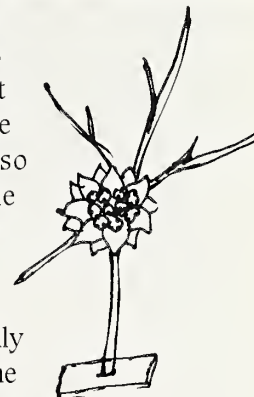
Container gardens are relatively simple to make if you remember the three rules. First, select some tall plants that are roughly 1 1/2 times the width of the container in which your design will be planted. Norfolk pines, palms, and Ficus create nice "trees" for your garden. This is the framework or "heaven" material. Next, you need some medium sized material, roughly 1/2 to 1/3 the size of the tallest plant. This is "man" or filler material. It should be more frill and spreading than the tall material. Some herbs, "china doll," ferns, etc. do quite nicely here. You'll need at least two of these. Again, to create additional interest use differently textured, hued or shaded plant material being careful not to get too colorful though, as you might alter the focal point of your garden. Also, try to set these plants at slightly differing heights to create rhythm and movement in your design which serves to draw your eye around and through the design, but always back into your focal point. Finally, select a nice miniature or semiminature African violet loaded with bloom. Bright pink or white blossoms do very nicely here. Be careful of using blues or darker colors as they may fade into the background especially when the lighting in the show room is not bright.

Finish your garden by using very short plant material to create a grassy or mossy effect, possibly adding rocks, driftwood or shiny, watery like material to create a more natural setting. Using very small, relatively obscure accessories to help communicate the theme is perfectly acceptable as long as they don't interfere with your focal point.



SMALL ONES IN INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS

Interpretive plant arrangements are those in which the African violet has been removed from the pot, root ball and all, and is used in the design, however only the violet is allowed to be "live and growing" and all other plant material must be cut or dried. One advantage of using the small ones is less damage is done to the plant during the arranging process because of the smaller root ball. This also makes the mechanics or "hiding the root ball" much easier to manage. The biggest advantage though, is small ones allow the designer additional creativity. They can easily be elevated in a design, changing the balance and overall effect. The base and line material simply don't need to be so heavy to compensate for the size of the plant although care must be taken to ensure the small violet remains the focal point and is not lost in the overall design.



SMALL ONES IN INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

These designs use only the cut African violet flower in addition to other cut plant material. In miniature (depending on your show schedule, generally anywhere from 12" or less) and in underwater designs the small flowers of some miniatures and semiminatures can work to the designer's advantage. A critical characteristic of these designs, once again, is scale. And the smaller the design you put together, the more important it is the blossoms are small, too. While some of the small ones have blooms that are large, many do not, and are therefore ideal for use in miniature design.

Likewise, they can be used in underwater designs where the magnification of design materials must be considered. To control the scale within these designs use of small ones can be helpful. An area where small ones do not do well is in the larger interpretive flower arrangements, where longer peduncles and larger flowers are often necessary to fill the space requirements of these designs. This is where violets, as much as we love them as house plants, become terrors to designers because of their generally weak and short peduncles and also because of the mass of blooms necessary to make larger designs "work." Most small ones are not useful in these designs.

NEXT TIME

The next column will be the annual convention review of cultivars both old and new that are of special note! Until then, take care!



S. brevipilosa, S. shumensis, S. velutina light

Exhibited by: Fay Wagman

1997 AVS of Canada National Show

AVS of Canada

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Failures In Raising African Violets

by Don Lester
Trenton, NJ

"I have never had any luck in raising African violets." Those words are spoken frequently to us at fairs, workshops, or when a new acquaintance learns that we raise them.

Often, of course, that comment is only an excuse used when an individual does not really have any interest in the plant. We, however, treat every person's statement as fact probably based on a lack of knowledge on at least one aspect of raising them.

We do not bombard them with questions about how they treated the plants. Rather, we ask if the individual has just a few minutes to learn about our method. Due to the fact that we are in ignorance of their treatment, the person cannot draw a conclusion that we are correcting them. Instead we launch into a brief discussion about three aspects of our method.

The first is about the soilless potting material. The second is fertilizer and its amount per gallon of water for a wicked system. The third aspect is the light necessary to raise them. During this recitation it is often possible to see by the person's expression that she/he is discovering what has been wrong about their method of raising African violets.

Very often the individual begins to talk freely about the errors made in earlier attempts. If they have a plant that is not flowering, they ask about the steps necessary to convert to the self-watering system. They might suggest that they have no adequate window sill on which to place a plant. We tell them about the various devices that can hook to a window to provide plant space. Artificial lighting also is discussed as a possible way to solve that problem.

"Can I just put a wick in the pot of my plant and place it on a reservoir?" is often the question. We reply that it would be safer to wash off all of the soil and start with a known mix that has adequate vermiculite and perlite.

One of the more difficult questions to answer is "why

did the plant that I purchased from the store continue to flower for a while and then never flower again?" We note that a bud on the plant, much like a rose bud, continues to open when the plant is brought home. It might have been planted in a large pot just before the store received it from the original grower. The plant that was grown in a tightly confined container and then transferred to a separate larger pot will seldom flower again until it becomes root bound. Thus it will, depending on the size of the pot, be idle for some time. Of course, we then point out it may be the fault of any of the other factors already mentioned.

At times the person is afraid to tackle the job of repotting and at this stage we offer to repot it at a location distant from our own plants. It is explained that if the plant has some sort of insect infestation, it will endanger other plants if it is repotted near them.

Frequently if the person does not have plants, he/she will purchase one or more to try again. We give them the assurance of a business card in case they have further questions. It is impossible to describe in the space of a short article, the success stories that have been related to us from the folks who try again.

One example may suffice. A group of about 40 teachers who belonged to a sorority, with their flower being the African violet, invited us to do a workshop. At the end of the program, two of the teachers told us of their previous failures. They decided to try again and purchased one plant. One of the teachers was the president of the state sorority. She later invited us to conduct a program for 120 members in a statewide meeting.

The beauty of that program was that these same two ladies rose to testify about the success they had by following our directions after the earlier workshop.

In reality, they were really treating their plants properly, and the plants were showing their appreciation by creating beautiful flowers.



Bev Promersberger
Affiliate Chairman
17415 Charter Pines Drive
Monument, CO 80132
email: promers@juno.com

PRIORITIES

Membership! Membership! Membership seems to be one of the main concerns of many affiliates. My original intent was to discuss creative ways to reach out and build the affiliate membership. However, after receiving a letter from an AVSA member who joined a local affiliate, I decided that before finding ways of attracting members, the affiliates need to make sure they are ready to keep the members they attract. Therefore, this column will be addressing that issue - making sure the affiliates have their "priorities" in order.

The purposes of AVSA as stated in its bylaws and in THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA'S HANDBOOK FOR GROWERS, EXHIBITORS, AND JUDGES are to:

1. provide a convenient association for people interested in African violets;
2. stimulate interest in propagation and culture of African violets;
3. promote distribution of all varieties and species among members and others interested in growing them;
4. publish reliable, practical information about plants and the organization.

The purposes of all affiliates should be in accord with those of AVSA. All decisions that are made should reflect the "priority" of those purposes. Most of the club bylaws that I have seen, either because I have been a member of those clubs or have had copies forwarded to me, state purposes that do coincide with those of AVSA. I think most affiliates and affiliate members agree with them. The problem seems to be in following through with them. Either the purposes are overlooked when decisions are made or individuals forget about the club when decisions apply to them personally.

The letter I received was from a lady who was very disappointed with her initial encounter with the local affiliate. First of all, she joined at the January meeting which was about half way through the club year, which began in September and ended in May. She was asked to

pay a full year's dues. In May, just a few months later, she was asked to pay another full year's dues. I realize that this is a very common occurrence. Most affiliates find it easier to establish an annual dues amount no matter what time of the club year a person joins. I don't fault any affiliate for that. There are some other alternatives you might consider. I have been a member of many clubs and have joined half way through the year more than once. One club prorated the annual dues half way through the club year. I paid half of the club's annual dues. Another club didn't want to bother prorating the dues and didn't want me to pay a full year of dues for just a few months, even though I was willing. The members suggested that I wait until the end of the year to pay when the annual dues were due again. I was welcome to attend and participate in all meetings and activities and they sent me the newsletter as well. The only thing I couldn't do was vote. I believe that they were trying in accordance with the purposes of their bylaws to make me feel welcome and not as if they were after my money.

The experience of paying dues twice in such a short time in itself might not seem like the club was after this new affiliate member's money, but her second experience wasn't any different. As a new member, she was seeking help. She called a member of the club to find out how to mix her own soil. The response she got was that they can't help her, but the club had soil that they mixed to sell and they would be happy to sell her some. She was disappointed to say the least, feeling that all they wanted from her was her money. Needless to say, that club lost a member. The "priority" of the local affiliate should not have been to make money but rather to "stimulate interest in propagation and culture of African violets."

Are your club's purposes parallel to those of AVSA? Are your club's decisions and actions made in accordance with those same purposes? Are you ready to keep the new members you get? Do your visitors and new members feel wanted? Because you need them? Or because you really want to help them? Make sure that your purposes are "ready" and that you aim to promote those purposes or goals in all you say and do. That way, you will be ready to

maintain those members that we will creatively seek in the upcoming column. Many clubs have specific ideas/plans designed to help the new member become a growing part of the affiliate. I urge you to share some of those ideas with me for a future column. I would love to hear from both the affiliate member and your club's plans as well as from any new members who felt the outreach of the affiliate members.

On a brighter note I want to thank everyone who attended the Affiliate Meeting in Sacramento and to those who sent or brought their yearbooks, newsletters, and show schedules to share. I learned so much that I know will be helpful in sharing with the affiliates in the coming year. I'm sure everyone who attended went home with ideas to share with their own affiliates. I want to remind all the affiliates who were unable to have a representative present at the meeting to be sure to observe the publication deadlines for all show and plant sales. By getting the announcements to the "Coming Events" on time, your announcement will not only be listed in the AVM, it will also

be shown on the AVSA web site enabling it to be viewed by everyone having access to the internet.

As we approach the end of the year, some of you may have some leftover copies of your yearbooks and/or newsletters that you could send to the affiliate committee for ideas and for sharing with other new affiliates. I welcome them all, no matter how large or small. Many affiliates do not want to publish elaborate yearbooks. I would like very much to see some examples of concise, practical yearbooks to share. In addition, many of you are in the process of completing a term of office and are installing officers for the upcoming year. Be sure to send a list of your new officers to the AVSA office by June 1 or as soon thereafter as possible in order to have the current President listed in the September issue of the magazine.

I wish you all a happy summer and time of vacationing as well as planning for another affiliate year. As you make your plans, please feel free to contact me for any assistance or ideas to share. We are all here to share and grow together.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • c/o AVSA Office • 2375 North
Beaumont, TX 77702

Donations received from November 30, 1997 - January 31, 1998

Pikes Peak AVS, Colorado Springs, CO	\$5.00
Columbus AVS, Columbus, OH	\$10.00
<i>In memory of Jim Whiffeld</i>	
Illinois AVS, Arlington Heights, IL	\$25.00
African Violet Study Club, Montgomery, AL	\$10.00
<i>Our club disbanded, donation in honor of Willy Beaker</i>	
Lau Hin Cheung, Konloon, Hong Kong	\$10.00
Tampa AVS, Tampa, FL	\$25.00
<i>In memory of Theodore Williams</i>	
Sweet Water AVS, Hauppauge, NY	\$10.00
Baja Oregon Bloomers, Yreka, CA	\$10.00

Tustana AVS, Costa Mesa, CA	\$10.00
<i>In memory of Charlie Pryor</i>	
Delphine R. Hotchkiss, Sun City, AZ	\$10.00
<i>In memory of Maude Teater, a very dear friend</i>	
James T. Kuczma, Sterling Heights, MI	\$25.00
Christine W. Davis, Harrison, ME	\$5.00
Mr. & Mrs. G. T. Smith, Rochester, NY	\$25.00
Irma Estela Mejia, Woodbridge, VA	\$10.00
Covington AVS, Andalusia, AL	\$10.00
Onalee H. McEwen, Houston, TX	\$5.00
Doris Schenck, Beloit, WI	\$10.00

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from December 1, 1997 to January 31, 1998

First of Dallas AVS, Dallas, Texas	\$25.00
Pomona Valley AVS, Pomona, CA	\$225.00
Pomona Valley AVS, Pomona, CA	\$25.00
<i>In memory of Ruth Hardaway</i>	
Iris Keating, Claremont, CA	\$15.00
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Baja Oregon Bloomers, Yreka, CA	\$10.00
Sweet Water AVS, Hauppauge, NY	\$10.00
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Nancy Corse, Media, PA	\$10.00
Irma Estela Mejia, Woodbridge, VA	\$30.00
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Victoria Frey, Old Bridge, NJ	\$25.00
Lois C. Foger, Liberal, MO	\$2.00
Pat Barthalomew, Carlisle, IA	<u>\$2.00</u>

Total. \$537.50

Keeping Track of Your Collection

by Elizabeth Whitesides • Raleigh, NC

Any dedicated grower knows how many details are involved in growing African violets to their peak. We are always adding new plants to our collection, grooming, feeding, repotting, pruning, propagating, spraying and hopefully just enjoying our "babies." Whenever we handle our plants, we make numerous observations that could help us in our growing efforts. I believe a serious grower, especially one who is "growing to show", should have a record keeping system to organize all this valuable information. It can be an excellent tool for improving your growing skills and therefore your collection.

At the very least you should know exactly what you have in your collection. Each plant needs to be carefully labeled. You can either write the name of the plant on the pot with a permanent marker, or attach sticky labels to each pot. I believe these methods are preferable to using plastic plant marker sticks for two reasons. One, the plant markers can easily fall out, and two, the markers can cause damage to leaves, petioles or simply skew the plant's symmetry. I use sticky labels with a waterproof marker, and on each label I write the plant's name (and number I have assigned, if I have more than one of a particular variety) and the date it was last repotted. For example, I might write "Apache Love 1, 7/25/97 ts". This tells me this is my Apache Love parent plant, and I last repotted it Texas Style on 7/25/97.

It is a good idea to also keep track of how many of a particular cultivar or variety you have. This information will keep you from giving away or trying some lethal experiment on the last plant of a favorite cultivar or variety without first putting down some leaves. I have heard many people lament making those mistakes.

Leaves you put down should also be carefully labeled with the cultivar or variety name and the date you put them down. I learned this lesson myself when I put down a tray of leaves and thought, "of course I will remember what is what." After a month or so, I could not remember what half of them were, and now I have to wait until they bloom to be sure. Leaves look a lot less distinctive sitting alone in a cup of dirt!

After you have created a list of the plants in your collection, start to keep track of things such as feeding schedules, pesticide applications, where and when your

plants were purchased, new techniques you have tried and their results, as well as the individual characteristics of your plants. My system may be a bit involved for your needs, but I hope you at least get some good ideas!

I keep an index card box with a 3" x 5" card for each plant. If I have more than one of a particular cultivar or variety, they are labeled "(Cultivar/Variety name) 1" "(Cultivar/Variety name) 2" etc., and each one has its own card. On the card I write:

1. The name, AVSA registration number and hybridizer. Having the full name and registration number will help you to fill out your show entry cards. Noting the hybridizer is important because you may then notice that a certain hybridizer's plants do very well for you, while another's do not. This information is particularly helpful for the newer grower. I have noticed that plants from certain hybridizers do quite well for me with little effort, while I fuss like crazy over another hybridizer's plants with no real success. This is the kind of information you can take on a shopping spree!
2. The MVL description. Recording this information helps you determine if what you think you have is really what you have, and what to "shoot for" - especially if you want to show this plant. With the description in mind, you will know if your plant is blooming true, is an appropriate size, etc.
3. Date the variety was purchased, from whom, and in what form - ie. starter plantlet, mature plant, leaf. If it is a leaf, I note when I put it down, when the first baby appeared, and when it first flowered. If it is a starter plantlet, I note its first flowering. Knowing how fast a plant grows and flowers is good information for show preparation or a hybridizing program. I keep track of where I purchase plants because I want to remember who sold me good, clean stock, and who sold me thrips, meales, etc! When I find a good grower, I can go back again and again with confidence (not too much confidence though - no matter where you get them, always isolate new plants and leaves).
4. "Inside Information" Why did I buy this plant? Was it a knock-out at a show, on a "top-ten" list, or did I just

fall in love at the nursery? If the person who recommended the plant or from whom I bought it gives me any tips or special information, I write that down here. For example, "prefers natural light", "very sensitive to fertilizer", or "variegation hard to maintain".

5. Any chemical applications (other than food), when, why and result. When your plants are in a crisis is not the time to be thinking, "now was it Malathion or Marathon I used last time?" or "which of these fungicides left those horrible white spots all over the leaves?"
6. New techniques (potting styles, watering styles, fertilizers, etc.) and their results. You do not want to make the same mistakes twice!
7. My observations: how many flowers it typically puts up, rate of growth, problems, how it handles repotting, light requirements, sensitivity to fertilizer, etc. The more violets you have, the less likely you are to remember who needs what. Use this information to select plants to pamper for show time. This type of

information can also be valuable in setting up a hybridizing program - you can easily select violets with specific characteristics. It may also help you diagnose future problems with new plants.

8. Final disposition. If I give a plant away, I note to whom and when. If the plant died, I try to note why - should I try again or just forget it?

This system takes some time to set up initially, but it is easy to maintain. I update the cards when I buy new plants, have a major event like a mass repotting session, or any other time I think of it. It may be easier for you to keep track of your collection on a computer, which I will get around to doing some day. It may be enough for your needs to simply keep a journal and note products you like/dislike, techniques you have tried, problems you have encountered and the best solutions, etc. However you do it, once you start to keep track of your collection in an organized way, I think you will be pleasantly surprised to find out just how much you really do know about African violets. And how about sharing some of that great information with the rest of us?

Purple Passion

by Ann Kuperberg • Tucson, Arizona

I am small and delicate.

There is a regal demeanor about me, yet some people see passion in my coloring.

I can be your best friend. Whisper sweet thoughts to me.

Tell me your secrets. I will share your joys and sorrows.

Sing to me, scream your frustrations. I will listen.

I will be your constant companion. Come and go as you please.

I will always be home waiting patiently for you.

On dreary days, I will lighten your spirits.

On sunny days, I will stir spurts of energy in your veins.

I am your soul-mate. All I ask in return is food and shelter.

Give me the sun's warmth without its scorching intensity.

Give me proper nourishment without extremes.

I can be housed in artificial light or in natural rays streaming through a windowpane.

I'm not very demanding. I will flourish.

As in all life, moderation is the key to survival.

If you feed me too little, I will wilt.

If you feed me too much, I will drown.

Every so often I will crave extra vitamins to help me shine.

I will give you unconditional love and beauty.

My delicate loveliness will blossom in my soft purple petals; sunny yellow buds and velvety green heart-shaped leaves.

Once you have loved me, you will love no other in the same way.

My purple passion will always remain.

I am an African violet.

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

***Alice Corinne** (8680) 1/20/98 (D. Harrington) Double dark purple pansy/near-black edge. **Variegated** medium green, cream and pink, spooned, longifolia, quilted, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**

***Judith Karen** (8681) 1/20/98 (D. Harrington) Double dark blue large star/some pink. **Variegated** medium green and creamy yellow, spooned, heart-shaped, glossy, scalloped. **Standard**

Clara Hobbs - San Antonio, TX

***Dean's Faded Rose** (8682) 1/28/98 (C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Double wine/old rose shading. **Mosaic variegated** green, pink and white, plain, heart-shaped. **Semiminiature**

***Dean's Peach Blush** (8683) 1/28/98 (C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single pale peach sticktite pansy. **Variegated** dark green and white, heart-shaped. **Semiminiature**

***Dean's Silver Veil** (8684) 1/28/98 (C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single-semidouble silver-blue lavender pansy/darker veining, overlay. **Variegated** green, pink and white, ovate. **Semiminiature**

Kay Hobbs-Gregg - San Antonio, TX

***Dean's Bashful** (8685) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Semidouble white ruffled/hot pink rays. **Variegated** olive green and white, quilted, scalloped. **Semiminiature**

***Dean's Brandywine** (8686) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single dark burgundy sticktite pansy. **Variegated** dark green and white, ovate. **Semiminiature**

***Dean's Freckles** (8687) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single-semidouble pink/blue fantasy. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed. **Semiminiature**

***Dean's Lady Bug** (8688) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single dark red sticktite pansy. **Variegated** dark green, pink and white, heart-shaped/red back. **Miniature**

***Dean's Lucienne** (8689) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single-semidouble light pink pansy/darker band, white edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, ovate, glossy. **Semiminiature**

***Dean's Rosalie** (8690) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Double rose two-tone. **Variegated** dark green and white, heart-shaped/red back. **Miniature**

***Dean's Ruby** (8691) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single-semidouble fuchsia pansy/darker top petals. **Variegated** dark green, pink and white, heart-shaped. **Semiminiature**

Ruth Bann - Fridley, MN

***Rebel's Crested Robin** (8692) 1/31/98 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble bright red pansy/white ruffled edge. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

***Rebel's Night Breezes** (8693) 1/31/98 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble dark blue large star/white ruffled edge. Medium green, spooned, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***Rebel's Purple Shadows** (8694) 1/31/98 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble orchid-purple two-tone pansy/ black-purple edge. **Variegated** dark green, tan and rose, plain, glossy, ruffled/red back. **Large**

***Rebel's Splatter Kake** (8695) 1/31/98 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink large fluted star/darker eye, purple fantasy, white-green edge. Medium green, spooned, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

REGISTRATION CHANGES

(Description changes **boldfaced**)

Dean's Legacy (7679) - size change from Semiminiature to **Miniature**

Fantastic Fantasy (8576) - blossom description change to: **Single-semidouble pink pansy/purple fantasy; variable darker pink stripe.**

Rebel's Ambrosia (8300) - Semidouble pink pansy/darker **band**, thin white frilled edge.

Hopefully Helpful Handy Hints

by Ruth Grieco
Brookline, MA

Once again, we are about to enter a new season. This season definitely means that we are going to pay more attention to our plants...unfortunately, it may be our OUTDOOR plants! DON'T DO IT! Don't neglect your violets! Remember, these are the same plants which you praised in the dead of winter for giving you blossoms...these are the same plants which you may have entered in your local show last May, which may have taken home a ribbon because they were so magnificent! They've been there for us, but have we always been there for them?

Well, I can honestly say that I have always tried to be there for my violets because I have a theory about them. The longer I grow them, the more I am beginning to believe that they are constantly "talking" to me. Think about it...they tell you when they are getting too much light, too little light, too much fertilizer, too little fertilizer, too much water, too little water, etc. All you need to know is their "language" in order to communicate with them!

Here are some examples: If your plant is getting too much light, it will "tell" you by changing the color of its leaves. The leaves will begin to get bleached out and if you respond to your plant's "chatter" by moving it further away from the source of light, or reducing the number of hours it is exposed to light, then you can, oftentimes, reverse any permanent damage. Conversely, if your plant is not getting enough light, it will often show its displeasure by not putting forth any blooms.

If you are giving your plant too much fertilizer, it will often show its unhappiness by getting a very tight center, or maybe even lose its crown altogether. It might even go so far as to form misshapen leaves. Too little fertilizer might be evidenced by smaller-than-normal leaves and/or lack of blossoms.

Probably the most important thing I have learned about my plants' running commentary is that it is almost as if they have plotted to take their sweet time to "tell" me of their dissatisfaction with their treatment. It could take months for an over-fertilized plant to finally reveal its tight crown to me. It's almost as if the plant is saying, "See...if you had paid more attention to me..."

The point here is consistency in care. Don't forsake your violets in the summer because your outdoor garden holds a greater interest. At very minimum, at least water your violets on a regular basis. This small effort will pay off down the road when your garden begins to die off and you're ready for the beauty of your violets once again.

A few quick summer hints to help keep the "chattering" to a minimum:

- Water on a regular basis. Your violets may dry out more quickly in the summer, so they should be checked at least once a week.
- They prefer to have air circulating around them, so placing a small fan near (but not directly on) them is beneficial.
- Keep small containers of water near the violets to increase the amount of available humidity around them.
- Some growers cut back on fertilizer during the summer. You can, if you wish. I tend to keep up my regular routine.
- Remember to keep grooming your plants throughout the summer. A small sucker in July may be a second crown by September if left unattended.
- Be consistent. Maintain whatever regimen you and your violets are used to. That extra effort will definitely pay off in the long run.

Good luck and happy growing!

*Reprinted with permission from
"Ye Bay Stater", publication of the Bay State AVS*

My Plant, the Doctor - A Medical Miracle

by Frank Martin
Seattle, WA



*"Doctor," the plant with
dark blossoms*

It began as an ordinary visit to the doctor's office. Who would have known that by the day's end I was destined to deliver my doctor's twins, right there in her waiting room?

O.K., they were twin violets. And O.K., they were delivered from her office to my home! But it was an emergency nonetheless, and in the eyes of my little herd of *Saintpaulias*, I'm a hero. So here's the story:

It was one of those rare times when I've found myself alone in the waiting room, and not being much of a magazine reader, I turned my attention to the huge display of Hawaiian flora and began to putter among the foliage. Peeking over the little fence that divided people from plants, I saw a lovely foil-wrapped gift pot containing what looked like the dried remains of an African violet.

Upon closer inspection of the withered debris, it became apparent that the deceased had been a plant with

two long necks and dark blue double flowers. Here was a case that defied modern medicine, to be sure. Had there been a 911 for plants, I would have certainly rushed for the phone. Instead, I carried the pot to the front desk and asked if I might have a cup of water. The doctor's receptionist replied that she had just watered the plant. Wondering whether it was over or under watering that had been the fatal mistake, I replied that I intended to do surgery there at the desk. Taking out my jackknife, I removed both crowns from their necks, leaving a small stub on each. It was clear that even if the stubs had been able to draw water, the leaves could not wait another moment. I dropped both tiny, crepe-like crowns into the plastic drinking cup, where they floated. In the exam room, they were the first thing I showed the doctor. She pronounced them dead but agreed to give them to me.

Once home, I re-floated the little patients in a saucer of lukewarm water in the humid environment of the kitchen. Having some previous experience in plant CPR, I had discovered that leaves will substitute as roots, taking over the function of drawing in water when the existing root system is inadequate. As for the warm water, I thought it would help the pores of the leaves open and absorb better, in addition to lessening shock.

For weeks the two patients floated, looking as dark and shriveled as ever. Then one day, tiny green growth appeared at the centers. They were alive! They remained in the saucers until roots had formed, after which they were transferred to a jar of water. The day soon came when they looked like young, healthy plants and could be placed in clay pots on a wick system. I kept one and gave one away, naming mine (unofficially) "Doctor Violet."

About a year after it had been pronounced dead, Doctor Violet put forth a full head of beautiful blue double flowers over glowing green foliage. Not having an official name, this plant will not be winning any blue ribbons, but no ribbon in the world could compare to the joy of participating in this miracle of life triumphant. Besides, after a near death experience and recovery like that, I think these brave little *Saintpaulia* twins deserve more than a ribbon. I think they deserve a medal!

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

May Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 FRI	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
2 SAT 4:49 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
3 SUN	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd 5:04 am
4 MON 2:47 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
5 TUE	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
6 WED	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
7 THU 3:19 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
8 FRI	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
9 SAT 4:10 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
10 SUN	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
11 MON	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	Full 9:30 am
12 TUE 3:48 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
14 WED	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
14 THU 1:40 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
15 FRI	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
16 SAT 9:31 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
17 SUN	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
18 MON	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th 11:36 pm
19 TUE 3:04 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
20 WED	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
21 THU 6:06 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
22 FRI	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
23 SAT 7:06 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
24 SUN	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
25 MON 7:25 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	New 2:32 pm
26 TUE	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
27 WED 8:58 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
28 THU	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
29 FRI 1:38 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
30 SAT	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
31 SUN 10:21 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st

June Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 MON	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd 8:45 pm
2 TUE	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
3 WED 10:17 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
4 THU	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
5 FRI 11:06 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
6 SAT	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
7 SUN	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
8 MON 10:35 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
9 TUE	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	Full 11:19 pm
10 WED 7:51 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
11 THU	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
12 FRI	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
13 SAT 3:03 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
14 SUN	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
15 MON 8:32 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
16 TUE	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
17 WED 12:23 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th 5:38 am
18 THU	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
19 FRI 2:47 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
20 SAT	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
21 SUN 4:26 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
22 MON	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
23 TUE 6:39 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	New 10:50 pm
24 WED	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
25 THU 11:04 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
26 FRI	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
27 SAT	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
28 SUN 6:55 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
29 MON	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
30 TUE 6:06 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st

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Regional Reviews (Part 2)

compiled by Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Dr.
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

This is the second group of regional reviews for 1998. This time we have reviews from Colorado, California, Florida, Canada, Minnesota, and Japan.

*Our lead reviewer is **Bev Promersberger of Monument, Colorado**. Bev is an outstanding grower who has the distinct advantage of having lived in numerous locations throughout the United States. She is a true veteran of adjusting conditions based on varying growing environments.*

Where grown: Main floor of a three story home

Temperature range: 65-72 degrees F.

Humidity: Winter 39% - 59%

Summer 34% - 70%

Watering system: Standards - wicking

Miniatures - matting

Primary fertilizer used: 20-20-20

Lighting: I use one cool white and one Gro Lux wide spectrum. My lights are on 10-12 hours a day, 10 in the summer and 12 in the winter. I use the daylight saving time in the fall to increase them to 12 and the daylight saving time in the spring to decrease them to 10.

Soil Mix: 16 cups soil mix

8 cups perlite

8 cups vermiculite

1/2 cup dehydrated cow manure

1 1/2 cups charcoal

1 1/2 Tbl. dolomite lime

1 Tbl. ferate

"I grow in the drier Midwest where the temperatures vary from cold and dry in the winter months to a little more humid in the summer months. The humidity varies from high to low in the same day because of the daily thunder storms which increase the humidity in the evenings and mornings before dropping in the middle of day. We do not have any kind of air conditioning. It's not even installed in this area so we are reliant on less controlled conditions. We can have a few extreme cold days in the winter or even a few very warm days. Because of the trees, the extremes do not usually affect the temperatures too much inside the home. Sometimes I will close the door to my plant room in the winter to keep the temperatures a little warmer and the humidity a little

higher. Because the temperatures in the winter and early spring are consistently on the cool side, it usually takes a minimum of 10 weeks after disbudding stops to bring showplants into show quality bloom.

"'Ceremonial Dance' (Stork) - Even though we have quite a range of temperatures and changes in humidity in this area, I have been very impressed with this variety. The variegation remains very consistent. The symmetry of this variety is showplant quality. Even if you allow blooms to open, the symmetry continues to overlap evenly, filling in the spaces where the bloom stalks were allowed to appear.

"'Irish Flirt' (Lyons) - This semiminature blooms and blooms. I find that the foliage grows better with a little less light than the rest of my small varieties. I place it toward the end of my lights and the foliage grows evenly and symmetrically.

"'Rob's Fuddy Duddy' (Robinson) - This semiminature variety grows itself. The foliage is perfect every time. The blooms outnumber themselves, even in temperatures like ours that are not conducive to good disbudding techniques.

"'Sundown Trail' (Pittman) - I really enjoy growing this semiminature trailer. It grows more like a semi-trailer, but if it is groomed regularly, as all trailers should be, the blue blossoms against the dark green foliage is outstanding."

*Our second reviewer is **Darryl Hoover** from southern California. Darryl is an extremely knowledgeable grower, known throughout Texas and California for the perfect plants he grows. Darryl also dabbles in hybridizing, introducing only plants that meet his stringent criteria: they must win Best of Show!*

"My violets are located in two rooms. The main growing area is located in a spare bedroom, the other area is in my living room. The temperature in both areas, during non-summer months, is between 60 and 80 degrees F. The humidity levels vary from 40 to 60 percent.

"My show plant collection is wick

watered atop individual reservoirs. I use number 36 nylon cord, purchased at Walmart, as my wicking material. It works well on pot sizes from 2 1/4" to 4". My seedlings, hybridizing stock and sale plants are watered via Texas Style.

"My mix is 'Premier Pro-Mix BX' (screened). I add equal parts of perlite to the Pro-Mix. I also add 1 cup Bone Meal to every eight quarts of Pro-Mix.

"I began using Dyna-Gro (7-9-5) in May of 1997 and have been extremely impressed with its performance. I have not had any fertilizer burn, no fertilizer buildup in the crown and the plants look greener and healthier than they ever have since I began using it. Although some have said bloom count has suffered when they switched to the Dyna-Gro (7-9-5), I have not experienced any drop off in blossom count. The addition of the Bone Meal may explain why my bloom count hasn't fallen. I do intend to incorporate Dyna-Gro's Bloom formula into my fertilizer regimen.

"This year I've been very impressed with 'Windsome' (Pittman). It's a miniature with dark green foliage, which is extremely symmetrical, topped with medium blue semidouble blossoms boasting a geneva edge.

"Rob's Antique Rose' (Robinson) is another that has done quite well. It is rarely without bloom, shapes up very nicely and really shows well. An oldie that is indeed my FAVORITE showplant is 'Petite Jewel' (Pittman). If I had a nickel for every time I've won Best Miniature with it I'd have at least a dollar. It has two-tone purple/blue blossoms that nearly hide the flawless variegated foliage. If I could only grow one plant, 'Petite Jewel' would be it. 'Dean's Lady Bug' (Hobbs) is a 1997 introduction that has been very impressive. Next to 'Petite Jewel', you'd be hard pressed to find a miniature with better foliage. It stays quite small, maybe maturing at 4", has very nice s/d dark, dark fuchsia blossoms which make this little guy a perfect show plant.

"I had a hard time growing 'Rob's Hallucination'. Great foliage...just never bloomed. Guess it doesn't like me. 'Rob's Sarsparilla' bloomed, and bloomed and bloomed but the foliage grew a bit large under my conditions. I had high hopes for 'Sassy Sister', but this sport of 'Irish Flirt' just didn't seem to have the same killer instincts."

Phyllis King was last year's sweepstakes winner at the St. Pete Beach convention in addition to many other awards she won. Phyllis' plants are perfection; masses of blooms, well-grown foliage with perfect symmetry, and are meticulously groomed. She hails from Clearwater, Florida where growing violets can be both extremely easy and extremely trying.

"I'm a member of the Upper Pinellas African Violet Society. I have always had violets and I have been growing for show since 1988. I have had several Best in Show. I love growing almost anything. I can truly say African violets are number one for me.

"Growing violets in a southern state is really very different. We have a lot of humidity and fungus to deal with. In the summer, most of us only have our air on 78 degrees and during the winter we drop back to 70 degrees. We use very little heating. It can get a little stagnate in the house, so we use ceiling fans at all times. Mildew is a big problem. My humidity stays about 60%. When there is no air or heating, I sometimes use a dehumidifier. I have 21 shelves of plants, in different parts of my house. This helps to keep them cool. I use a light soil:

3 parts Volkmann soil
3 parts perlite
2 parts large vermiculite
1 part Baccto
1/2 cup of charcoal/1 T Dolomite Lime/
1 T Super Phosphate

"I grow almost all my plants starting from leaves. This helps keeps bugs out, somewhat. When I start my leaves, I wash them with a weak solution of water and bleach. I then fill the bottom half of a Dixie cup (Texas Style) with perlite, and top it off with my regular potting soil. I cover each with a plastic lunch bag that has a small hole at the top. The hole lets air in and prevents moisture condensation. When the babies appear, I remove the bag. I use Volkmann fertilizer 15-30-15, 1/8 teaspoon, and a drop of Superthrive all the time.

"When potting up my baby plants, I put a generous amount of perlite in the bottom of each pot along with a wick, then the soil. I water the plant with a mixture of a few drops of Fredette's Allegro to a quart of water and 4 drops of Superthrive. I also disbud when I repot so the plant can concentrate on getting established in the soil. I fill the pot with roots before it has to think about flowers. All younger plants and leaves are grown in trays that have foam rubber carpet padding in the bottoms of the trays. They get 11 hours of light a day.

"I repot about every 3 months. At the next potting they go on their own reservoirs. My lights are on 12 to 13 hours a day, except when preparing for show, then they will reach 15 hours. I use one Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum tube and one Standard Gro-Lux in each light fixture. I replace one tube in the spring and one in the fall on the ones I am growing for show.

"'Apache Bandit' - I got a leaf and grew it from a baby. I just love the foliage; it has ruffled pink and white variegated leaves. It has the big semidouble pansy dark

purple bloom with a slight green frilled edge. It is the size of a large ring now. I love it.

“‘Rob’s Sarsaparilla’ - I received the plant at convention. It is doing very well. At first it wanted to grow big. I repotted and it seems to be coming along fine. It has dark green leaves, which are frilled and serrated. So they lie down nicely. It’s a semi, with an unusual bloom. It’s light pink with a frilled brown and green edge.

“‘Rob’s Miriwinni Trail’ - This plant I also got at convention. I transplanted it and it blooms all the time. It puts out small little flying plants and they bloom. The blooms do fall off after a while. It’s a chimera - pink pansy with blue stripe and dark blue fantasy throughout. Nice grower.

“‘Victorian Valentine’ - I got this plant from a friend. It has a very pretty bloom. It is a single star fuchsia with a wide white edge. The leaves are large green ruffled. At first, I did not think it would grow to a nice size. After I saw it in a show, I think I will keep growing it.”

Canada’s representative is Irene Henry. Residing in Quebec, Irene is very active in the African Violet Society of Canada with her particular area of interest being the small ones. Evidently she does very well with them as she’s quite a showman too!

“During the twenty some years of growing African violets, I have tried every conceivable growing method written or talked about, always looking for the one to suit growing conditions at the time. To clarify, there were three residence changes during these years.

“The daytime temperature in my current basement plant room is usually 80 degrees and can go higher on hot July days. When lights go out, it is a comfortable 70 degrees. Humidity ranges between 50 and 55%.

“As my collection grew to multiply in the hundreds a self-watering system became the solution. Each shelf on my plant stands accommodate four 11 x 21 inch trays. Egg crating is cut to snugly fit each tray, making sure that it will rest above the water level. A length of matting, 10 x 24 inches, which has been soaked and wrung out, is then draped over the crating with the two ends falling into the tray.

“To a gallon of water, I add a scant 1/8 tsp of 20-20-20 plus 1 drop of Superthrive. This amount is poured into each tray and will not require refilling for about two weeks. 20-20-20 is used all year round, but 10 weeks before show, I use 5-50-17 for 3 weeks and at 7 weeks change to 12-26-14 until show.

“The majority of my plants are semi-minis and I use mostly 2-1/4 inch pots which are all wicked with a 4 inch length of Orlon Acrylic yarn extended from the top of the

pot with the excess resting on the moist mat. The yarn is a fine four ply quality.

“I use a prepared AV soil supplied by one of our Commercial Growers. It is an excellent growing medium but I lighten it again by adding an extra cup of perlite to every four cups of soil. About four cups of Worm Casting is also added to eight quarts of soil.

“Each fixture has a cool white and warm white tube which are on a daily 12 hour schedule. However, nine weeks before show, I increase them by one hour each week until 15 hours is reached. After the show, they are decreased by one hour per week until they are on 12 hours once again.

“I first came across the following varieties in 1995 and continue growing them in my collection as they are easy to grow and are proven show winners. ‘Rob’s Whippoorwill’ is an eye catching semi-miniature with symmetrical Champion variegated foliage with a mass of s/d pink apple blossom type with darker tips. It was a Best in Show winner in 1996.

“‘Rob’s Match Point’ - another spectacular semi and Best in Show winner in 1997. It has medium green, easy growing symmetrical foliage topped with a mass of white stars with a broad blue edge, almost resembles a Chimera pattern.

“‘Ness’ Angel Babe’ - a delightful miniature with small dark green, very symmetrical growing foliage almost hidden by a mound of double pink blooms. Won Best Mini in last three shows.

“There are many other favorites which I keep growing in my collection - ‘Little Pro’, ‘Optimara Little Crystal’, ‘Rob’s Fuddy Duddy’, ‘Rob’s Doohickey’; all big winners in previous shows and each outstanding for producing hundreds of blooms and ease of growing.”

*Traveling slightly south and west, we now visit **Palma Trapp of Minnesota.** Palma is well known to convention goers for her expertly grown plants! Her plants have graced the winner’s table frequently, with Palma having won at least one Best in Show at national convention.*

“My violet room is located on the lower level of our home, with temperatures around 70-80 degrees the year round, humidity at 35-50%, and air conditioning in summer when needed.

“My watering system consists of wick watering for all the small ones including a few trailers. The standards are watered individually: they rest in individual plastic saucers. I use foliar feeding in the form of a light mist at least once per month on all violets including the variegates, alternating with Ra-Pid-Gro, fish emulsion and Dyna-Gro.

“My soil mix is very light: 3-2-1 mixture with trace

elements. It works well for wicking.

"I use one cool white deluxe light bulb and one wide spectrum in most of my light fixtures. Lights are maintained at 12 hours on and 12 hours off most of the time. I disbud all show plants 7 to 8 weeks prior to a show. Some doubles will require more time to flower during winter months, however not all varieties will cooperate 100% after disbudding.

"'Rob's Fuddy Duddy'—semidouble dark orchid pansies, plain dark foliage. Blooms well for me with 7-9 blooms per stem. A nice compact semi mini that stays small under wicking conditions and also works well in a design.

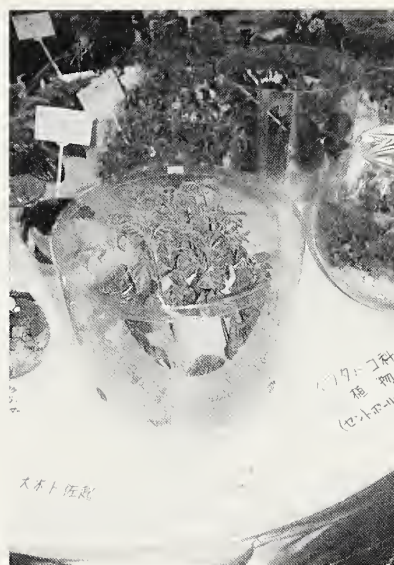
"'Everdina' — Double lavender, violet blue fantasy is the description of this miniature. An older variety but still very popular in shows. It grows well for me, transplanted every four to six months, with excellent bloom.

"'Definitely Darryl' — Semiminature single and semi double medium blue, white edge, variegated foliage, slow grower, however the end result is great. Long lasting blooms and nice foliage. This plant scored 100 points in a mini and semi collection at one of our affiliate shows.

"'Ness' Angel Blush' — Excellent flat growing variegated foliage; stays within its mini size. Blush white blooms that last well. Also used this plant in a small design with good results."

The final review was contributed by Ken'ichi Okishita of Tokyo, Japan. Ken has his own African violet business in Japan, and attended the St. Pete Beach convention with his wife. Thank you, Ken!

"I grow *Saintpaulia* in my room. It is on the 9th floor of a condominium. There is a window to the southeast and the morning sun pours in. I raise almost all my plants inside a "case". The case is made of transparent plastic, shaped like a hat box. The environment inside the case is as follows: temperature: 16-24 Celsius, humidity: 40-60%.



"Case"

"My fluorescent lights are on 10-12 hours per day. I make my own potting mix. It is a light mixture for wick watering: 70% vermiculite, 20% venuslite (like perlite), 10% white silica. The silica has the effect of absorbing excessive nitrogen. It releases what it absorbs, as nitrogen in a soil-less mix is used by the plant insufficiently (oxidation is prevented). In Japan, white silica is useful to many plants. I do not use peat moss because it holds a surplus of moisture if used in wick watering. This can cause the roots to rot. However, in Japan during the winter, it is drier. I may add peat moss to my soil at the rate of 10% (1 part peat to 9 parts the original mix).

"I use chemical fertilizer alternated with organic fertilizer. Both are liquid fertilizers.

"I exhibited two African violets for our show in November. One was 'Dorothy Parker' by H. Eyerdorn. I like the blue-lavender and a variable green fringed edge flower. This year, 'White Pride' has many flowers in bloom. It is simplicity and has beautiful white flowers."

Tips From Texas

- A clear plastic "zip lock" bag makes a good "tent" for a small seed bed planted in a tray. The seam can be closed completely or left partially open to regulate humidity. Toothpicks can be used on the inside to keep it from touching the soil.
- Help your fresh-cut flowers last longer. Cut stems at an angle under water so no air bubbles can form to stop the free flow of water into the stem. Remove leaves from below the waterline, as decaying plant material poisons the water. The best preserving solution is 2 TBL white vinegar and 2 TBL cane sugar in a quart of water. The vinegar inhibits the growth of organisms and the sugar serves as food.
- If you are experiencing leaf spotting after potting up or after potting a long necked plant down, try putting your plants in total darkness for 48 hours before putting them back under the lights.

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WATERING

One of the most often asked questions about growing African violets relates to watering, "How much water do they need, and how often?"

African violets are susceptible to damage from too much water. Their roots and succulent crown and leaf stems may simply rot away if the potting mix is kept too wet. They also suffer if subjected to long periods of dryness and alternating periods of severe dry and sodden soil is often the quickest way to kill an African violet.

The amount and frequency of water needed, varies according to the size and state of growth of the plant, and according to the weather. More water is needed by large plants, plants in need of repotting, plants which are flowering, during periods of hot weather, or when humidity is low. Less watering is needed by small plants, plants recently repotted and during periods of mild temperatures and high humidity.

It doesn't matter in the least how you water your plants. You may forget the story about only watering from below. It is my understanding that rain in Africa falls from above just as it does in other parts of the world, which also puts paid to the story about never getting the leaves wet. A certain amount of care should be taken, however.

Watering from above - top watering

Although a few drops of water on the leaves of the plant will do no harm, it is not a good idea to leave large bubbles of moisture in the very center of the plant. These are the most delicate leaves and most prone to damage. So if you want to water from the top of the pot use a long spouted water can to apply the water directly to the surface of the mix.

Your violet needs water when the soil is slightly dry, but not so dry it begins to leave the sides of the pot. Never let the plant go so dry it goes limp and never let the air holes in the bottom of the pot remain covered by water for any length of time.

The frequency between waterings varies as in summer they will need watering more often than in winter.

When watering use tepid water until it begins to run out the drainage holes - then drain well. Plants can be leached every so often to remove any excess fertilizer salt build-up.

Using tepid water is an important point. Cold water, especially on a very hot day, or in the middle of winter may be much colder than the temperature of the roots. The plant will suffer a shock and slow down in growth.

Watering from below - bottom watering

This could apply to any of the automatic types of watering systems that hobby growers employ, but mostly we use the term to apply to sitting the pot in a saucer or bowl of water and waiting for it to absorb the water from underneath. Once again use tepid water and do not leave the pot sitting in the saucer of water any longer than needed for the mix to become properly watered.

Wick watering - the prince of watering methods.

There are so many good points about wick watering. It is the great favorite method. It uses a **synthetic** cord of some kind passing through a hole in the bottom of the pot up into the potting mix.

Naturally it is much easier to insert the wick at the time of potting the plant, though with the assistance of a crochet needle or similar hook it is not impossible to add it later. The plant should be potted up normally with the wick in place. When finished potting, either stand the pot in a saucer or tray of water until the mix is thoroughly dampened, or water from the top until the water runs freely down the wick. Place the pot on its water reservoir to draw water by capillary action up the wick as it is required.

The water reservoir is just something to hold the water - it can quite literally be anything which will hold water. Your ingenuity can be your guide. The important thing is that the pot holding the plant must not be in the water, but the wick must be. The most common reservoir is the take away food container with a couple of holes punched in the lid. If the look of this type of container does not suit, you can insert the reservoir and the pot into a larger decorative pot so that only the violet is visible.

Advantages of wick watering:

- No more decisions on when and how much - the plant decides.
- Ease of fertilizing.

- Watering carries on even when you are absent. Go on holidays and come home to beautiful flowering plants.
- Because moisture level is constant, growth is quick and even. When growth is strong, flowers appear in rapid succession.

Texas style watering - what's that?

Naturally it is a method of watering which came from Texas, and yes, like wick watering, it does grow very strong, large African violets. It is a little different in that the pots are allowed to stand in water.

The method mimics that of African violets in the wild which grow in pockets of soil and leaf mold above rocky rubble that is washed by seepage from constant rains. The violet roots penetrate the soil and leaf mold for moisture. Applying that to container grown plants means that you fill the bottom of the pot with an aggregate of some kind and plant above this. And stand the pot in a tray of water to grow.

The Texas pot should have two rows of holes around the bottom of the pot and the top lot of holes should be about 1/3 up from the bottom. The pot is then filled from the bottom to a little over the top row of holes with a 50/50

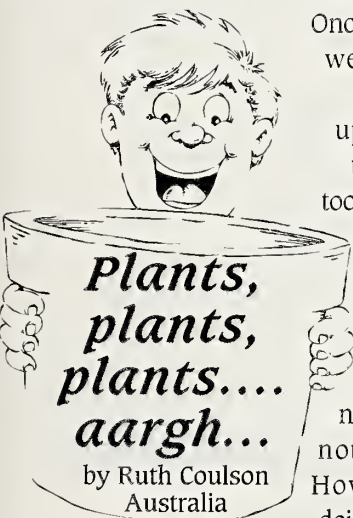
mixture of perlite and charcoal... the remainder of the pot is filled with normal potting mix and the plant, of course.

Perlite and/or charcoal make the best aggregate for the bottom of pots and admit plenty of air as well as holding some moisture even after the trays or saucers run dry. Water should be replenished about a day after it has all been used up.

The holes in the pot are mostly there to indicate how high to fill with aggregate, and how much water can be put in the saucer or tray. (Water should not be higher than the level of the aggregate in the pot.) However, making holes in pots can be a slow process (best tool: soldering iron) and the plastic fumes are dangerous to inhale.

Many growers favor the Texas method for their small plants, using disposable foam coffee cups for pots, since the rows of holes are easy to make in the soft foam. The tops of the coffee cups can be cut off too, to make a shallower pot. Growth of plantlets is fast in this method, and the plant is soon ready for repotting and moving on to a larger pot.

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Once upon a time, I remember it well, around 1984 or '85, I think, I had all my potting up to date. I recall standing there, virtually with repotting tools in hand and realizing that I could not possibly do anything to another plant until something had grown a bit.

That was then. It has never happened again, and is not at all likely to do so. However, lately I have been doing a lot of potting. I haven't

completely caught up, but almost. Here is my plan for escaping from the tyranny of too many plants awaiting attention, into the freedom of rows of newly potted plants growing on strongly and coming into flower.

Working at it regularly. I find it tiring, and even boring, these days to spend even half a day potting plants. So I have made sure that I do an hour or perhaps two hours most days.

Potting nothing for which there is no discernible need. Our AV Association has four promotions coming up before the show and then there is the show itself. Plants and plantlets will be needed for each, so when potting up all those little plantlets I have managed to discard anything I think won't make a positive contribution.

Discarding the dross. I have hardened my heart and many a plant has been discarded if it required too much attention to rescue it - particularly if it was not one that I desperately needed. Plants which have never been impressive, but which I have kept because I wouldn't let them beat me, have also been turned into garden mulch.

Planting no leaves. I have refused all offers of leaves of new varieties and have not put a leaf down in the last six months.

Refusing all gifts. I have managed to postpone all kind offers of what truly sound like delightful plants until I have everything else up to date.

Giving plants away. Friends can often use a pretty plant, and so can the Raffle table at the Association meetings.

I still have two trays of plantlets to pot up. And, I think, just about enough space to accommodate them when potted. When that has been done, wonder of wonders! I will be there! Briefly though it may be, my potting will be up to date for the first time in 14 years!

Now what about yours? I'll bet many of you also have heaps of plants that need potting and which have been "on hold" for varying lengths of time. We could just about start something like "Violetaholics Anonymous", or perhaps "VioletWatchers"?

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Coming Events



May 1 - May 3 - VIRGINIA

Tidewater AVS Annual Show/Sale
Coliseum Mall, Hampton, VA
Mall Hours
Info: Celesta Cinkl 479 - 3681

May 1 & 2 - MASSACHUSETTS

Bay State AVS Annual Show/Sale
Waltham Field Station, 240 Beaver St., Waltham, MA
May 1 - 2pm - 8pm
May 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Nancy Manozzi (508) 872 - 1478

May 1 & 2 - NEW JERSEY

Union County Chapter's 44th AV Exhibit & Sale
All Saints Episcopal Church, 559 Park Ave.
Scotch Plains, NJ
May 1 - 6pm - 9pm
May 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Jean Peters (908) 276 - 3221

May 1 & 2 - NEW JERSEY

Garden State AVC Show/Sale
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
E. State St. Extension, Mercerville, NJ
May 1 - 1pm - 8pm
May 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Claudia Schaeffer (609) 448 - 2957
Gary Thurman (609) 499 - 3395

May 1 & 2 - WYOMING

Sheridan AVC Show/Sale
St. Peter's Episcopal Church Hall
May 1 - 10am - 7pm
May 2 - 9am - 2pm

May 1 & 2 - MISSOURI

MKO Violet Club of Joplin, MO Annual Show
Including plants from the AVC of Bella Vista, AR
Bethany Presbyterian Church
20th & Virginia, Joplin, MO
May 1 - 10am - 4pm
May 2 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Linda Lewis (417) 673 - 3061
Pall Stott (417) 525 - 4234

May 1 - 3 - OHIO

Cincinnati AVS Annual Spring Show
Beechmont Mall, Anderson Township
May 1 - 1pm - 9pm
May 2 - 10am - 9pm
May 3 - noon - 6pm
Info: (513) 271 - 5678
(606) 384 - 4437

May 2 - CANADA

Vancouver AVC Show/Sale
Van Dusen Gardens, Floral Hall
Oak & 37th Ave.
Vancouver, BC
Hours: 1pm - 4pm

May 2 & 3 - NEW YORK

AVS of Syracuse Show/Sale
Great Northern Mall, Clay, NY
Rt. 31, west of Syracuse
Mall Hours
Info: (315) 455 - 2963

May 2 & 3 - WISCONSIN

Crosstown & Sundowners AVS Show/Sale
East Towne Mall, Madison, WI
May 2 - 10am - 9pm
May 3 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Bonnie Henell (608) 221 - 2150

May 2 & 3 - ILLINOIS

Illinois AVS Show & Convention
Elgin Holiday Inn, 345 W. River Rd.
May 2 - 1pm - 5:30pm
May 3 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Jan Bruns (630) 837 - 1298

May 2 & 3 - PENNSYLVANIA

AVS of Springfield, Delaware Co.
Springfield Mall, Rt. 320 & Baltimore Pike
May 2 - 11am - 9pm
May 3 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Nancy Corse (610) 566 - 5042

May 2 & 3 - CONNECTICUT

Naugatonic AVS Annual Spring Show
Boothe Memorial Park Hall
Main St. (Putney), Stratford, CT
Exit 53S off Merritt Parkway
May 2 - 1pm - 4pm
May 3 - 10am - 4pm

May 2 & 3 - CONNECTICUT

Silvermine AVS Judged Show/Sale
Nature Center for Environmental Activities
10 Woodside Ln., Westport, CT
May 2 - 1:30pm - 5pm
May 3 - noon - 4pm
Info: Sylvia Siegel (203) 847 - 5570
Cindy O'Brien (203) 846 - 0268

May 2 & 3 - MISSOURI

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council 43rd Annual
Show/Sale
Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw, St. Louis, MO
Both days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Ardath Miller (314) 394 - 9190

May 2 & 3 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura Co. AVS Annual Show/Sale
Buenaventura Mall, Mills Rd. & Main St., Ventura, CA
May 2 - 10am - 6pm
May 3 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Lisa Martinez (805) 983 - 3522

May 7 - 9 - OHIO

Violets & Friends Club Show/Sale
Miami Valley Centre Mall, Rt. 36 & I-75
Piqua, OH
May 7 - 1pm - 9pm
May 8 & 9 - 10am - 9pm
Info: (937) 492 - 6588
(937) 773 - 6603

May 8 & 9 - CANADA

AVS of Central Alberta Show/Sale
Parkland Mall, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada
Show: May 8 - 4:30pm - 9pm
Sale: May 9 - 9:30am - 6pm
Info: Margaret Gratto (403) 346 - 2232

May 8 & 9 - KANSAS

Bright Petals AVC Annual Display/Sale
Gold Room, Holiday Inn, 3017 10th St.
Great Bend, KS
May 8 - 8am - 6pm
May 9 - 9am - 5pm
Info: (316) 285 - 6478
(316) 793 - 6875

May 8 & 9 - OHIO

Parmatown AVC 38th Annual Show/Sale
Parmatown Mall, 7899 W. Ridgewood Dr.
Parma, OH
May 8 - 12:30 - 9pm
May 9 - 9am - 6pm
Info: Martha Bell (330) 483 - 3546

May 8 & 9 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS Mother's Day Sale
Pierre Bossier Mall, 2950 E. Texas, Bossier City, LA
Both Days: 10am - 5pm (or until sold out)
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

May 8 & 9 - NORTH CAROLINA

First Goldsboro AVS Show/Sale
Berkeley Mall
Mall Hours
Info: Frances Deans (919) 778 - 3179

May 8 & 9 - MARYLAND

Baltimore AVC 44th Annual Show/Sale
North Plaza Mall, Parkville, Maryland
May 8 - 1pm - 9pm
May 9 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Janet Haag (410) 377 - 8753

May 8 & 9 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Mother's Day Sale
Carolina East Mall, Greenville, NC
Both days: 10am - 7pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

May 8 & 9 - TENNESSEE

Memphis AVS Show/Sale
Memphis Botanical Garden, Memphis, TN
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Geneva Stagg (901) 757 - 1136

May 9 - NEBRASKA

Omaha AVS Spring Sale
Southroads Mall, 1001 Ft. Crook Rd
Bellevue, NE
Mall Hours
Info: Perry Robinson (402) 280 - 2882
Patty Burkey (402) 289 - 3328

May 9 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomer AVS Plant Sale
Coddington Mall, Guernville Rd. at Hwy. 101
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Sherry Olson (707) 836 - 0910

May 9 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS Plant Sale
Padre Staples Mall, 5488 South Padre Island Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX
Hours: 10am - 5:30pm
Info: Majorie Bullard (512) 992 - 3009

May 9 & 10 - GEORGIA

AVC of Greater Atlanta Mother's Day Mini Show/Sale
North Dekalb Mall
Lawrenceville Hwy. & North Druid Hills Rd.
Decatur, GA
Mall Hours
Info: Kathy Spissman (770) 939 - 5289

May 9 & 10 - CANADA

AVS of Greater Montréal Annual Show/Sale
Pointe Claire Curling Club, Cartier/Lanthier
Pointe Claire, Que., Canada
May 9 1pm - 5pm
May 10 - noon - 4pm
Info: (514) 695 - 5149

May 9 & 10 - CALIFORNIA

Foothill AVS Mother's Day Show/Sale
The Plaza at West Covina
Lower Level - Macy's Court
1200 West Covina Parkway, West Covina, CA
May 10 - 10am - 8pm
May 11 - 11am - 7pm
Info: Cindy Cartwright (626) 969 - 1431

May 15 - 17 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Northtown Mall
Hwy. 10 & University Ave. NE, Blaine, MN
Mall Hours
Info: Sandy Officer (612) 835 - 8603

May 16 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Burlington County Show/Sale
Burlington Center Mall
Rt. 541, Burlington, NJ
Sale: 10am - 9pm
Show: 1pm - 9pm
Info: Laurel Brown (609) 877 - 8696

May 16 & 17 - NEW YORK

AVS of Rochester 49th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave.
Rochester, NY
May 16 - 2pm - 6pm
May 17 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Irwin Wagman (716) 381 - 6384
or email IrwinWag@aol.com

May 24 - CANADA

Toronto AVS Annual Judged Show
Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. E.
at Leslie, North York, Ontario, Canada
Hours: 11am - 5pm
Info: Jean Hamilton (416) 491 - 9719 after 6pm

AVSA and Today's Technologies

by John Carter
AVSA Technology Committee



Thank you for your patience as we have converted your membership information from the old computer system into the new one. We have not seen any major problems, but there have been some little things like losing the prefix (Mrs.) from some of the names as they were converted. We are in the process of restoring the prefixes and will address it more aggressively after the convention registration process is completed.

Almost half of you have seen the new membership renewal notice. Many of you have provided your phone number and e-mail address with your renewal which the system can now store. The new system has streamlined the renewal process which saves a lot of work by the staff and has permitted a savings in the postage rate we must pay. You also receive the notice more quickly. When we started, more than 800 of your addresses did not meet postal regulations. That number is now down to 100. If you get a request from the office for confirmation of your address, check one of your utility bills and give us the address as they show it. Include all 9 digits of your zip code. The post office no longer likes addresses specifying rural routes (e.g. RR Box). The preferred address now refers to highway and road designations which are also usable by emergency vehicles to locate your home. If you live in a small community your letter carrier probably knows where to deliver your mail but it costs AVSA extra postage to send

your magazine or membership renewal to a RR Box address.

If you have Internet access you have probably seen the new web site for AVSA. A lot of work has gone into compiling the information and organizing it to provide you and hopefully potential members of AVSA information that will benefit you and bring you enjoyment. It will take an ongoing effort to maintain the data so that it is accurate and current. If you are a commercial member and have not yet provided information about your business to be listed on the AVSA web site you may still return the questionnaire that was mailed to you or you may e-mail the appropriate information to Ed Holst at crviolet@mto.nfi.net. If you are an officer of an affiliate and would like more information shown about your organization you may e-mail Bev Promersberger at promers@juno.com. If you would like to post your own activities on the calendar of events, send an e-mail to webmaster@avsa.org to be assigned a login and password that will allow you to add your activities to the calendar.

To ensure that your information appears correctly in the AVM, you must still follow the current procedure and submit to the Editor by the deadlines listed in the front of the magazine.

If you have suggestions about information that would be helpful to be presented on the web site, feel free to send an e-mail to the Web Master and it will be reviewed by the Internet Committee for possible inclusion as enhancements are made to the site.

Baking Soil

Preheat the oven to 180°. Place the pan of soil in the center of the oven until a thermometer indicates that the soil in the pan has reached 180°.

To get rid of :

nematodes
most bacteria/fungi
soil insects
most plant viruses
weed seeds

Bake soil for 30 minutes at:

120°
150°
160°
160°
175°

A CLOSER LOOK



David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64501

Over the past few years we have seen an almost explosive increase in the popularity of miniature African violets. Winning major awards in local, regional and national shows, these mighty minis are the result of talented hybridizers who have given us excellent symmetry and heavy blooming habits with colorful, distinctive blossoms.

Miniature African violets have been around for many years. Originally referred to as "tea-cup violets" they were first considered a novelty and not taken seriously because of their tendency to sucker. In this day of specialization, a few hybridizers and commercial growers have focused on improving the little ones.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to **Jean Stokes**, one of these specialists who grows and sells miniatures under the name of **Mighty Minis** in **Sacramento, California**.

Jeannie moved to Oroville, California where she grew standard size African violets. While there, she met another grower who gave her a single, white-blooming miniature. The blooms fell easily from the plant, but Jeannie liked the smaller, faster growing and easy to groom plant.

In 1980, when she moved to Sacramento, her collection was almost exclusively minis. Shortly thereafter, she began to sell locally. By 1982 Jeannie was ready to sell by mail and began advertising in the African Violet Magazine.

Her miniatures are grown in a building near the rear of her home in a residential neighborhood. The building is somewhat smaller than similar buildings used by other growers, but then, minis need a lot less space.

Packed into every square foot of space are some 400 varieties from well-known and not so well-known hybridizers. When asked who her favorite hybridizer is, Jeannie spoke without hesitation: "Rob." She believes Ralph (Rob) Robinson's introductions are the best as to high bloom count, attractive blossoms and ease in growing.

Following Rob in popularity are those cultivars by Hortense Pittman and Sidney Sorano of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses.

Jeannie doesn't show her plants competitively lest she be considered as having an unfair advantage as a commercial grower. However, she loves to enter designs in her local shows. At the recent national AVSA convention held in Sacramento, Jeannie worked in the information booth, in addition to selling leaves in the sales room.

Insects are not a problem for this grower since she learned of a liquid systemic that is highly effective. The main drawback is the \$99.00 per gallon cost. If you have a question about this highly touted insecticide, please contact Jeannie directly.

The minis are grown in Volkmann's soil that Jeannie sterilizes by heat before use.

After retiring about two years ago from a position as bankruptcy trustee in a bank, and with no hobbies, Jeannie is now able to devote more time to her miniatures.

Before leaving the bank, her fellow employees laughed at her for wanting to grow and sell African violets on a commercial level. Now some of them come by to visit and pick up a mini or two.

Hybridizing appeals to Jeannie, and a few of them are now available from her list. She plans to continue this side of growing African violets in the future. Information about ordering her list is available in her ad in this magazine.

As I travel across this great, land I am constantly reminded of the power and influence of the individual. Here at Mighty Minis is a woman who has raised four children, had a career in business, and yet continues to keep an optimistic, indefatigable eye toward the future. Thank you, Jeannie Stokes.

My wife and I are planning our trips for the balance of 1998, which will include visits to other AVSA commercial members. I hope your favorite will be among them.

MIGHTY MINIS



Jean Stokes

N A T U R A L G A R D E N S

by Ruth Goeke • Brenham, TX

Some time ago, I attended a workshop Bill Foster did on natural gardens. I took a few notes with the intention of writing an article for the newsletter, but as usual, time went by and I never got around to writing the article. It wasn't that I didn't need articles for our newsletter, but writing for me usually takes more time than I have to spare at that particular moment. Since this is the last newsletter for me to do, I thought I should see if I could still decipher my notes.

Bill Foster (AVSA First Vice President) is very well known for his award winning designs and when he speaks about design exhibits, he always makes it appear to be so easy and uncomplicated to do. I'm sure that talent and a good imagination (I have neither) play a big part in constructing these winning designs.

A natural garden is one of the types of Container Gardens in our shows. Container gardens are miniature scenes in which one or more blooming African violet plants, along with other plants, are actually planted and growing in the container.

Natural materials must be used for natural gardens. Examples of natural materials would be sea shells, rocks, lava rocks, logs, or driftwood. An ornamental gourd could even be used if the overall gourd fits the size. Anything natural can be used. Two separate pieces can even be put together if you can make it look natural. There is no rule that says you cannot paint your planting container, but most are left in their natural state and color.

There can be one or more planting pockets in the container. Container gardens should be constructed a month before the show.

Always check the schedule for size limits. Relation to container is worth 10 points and consideration must be given to the size and amount of planted material in proportion to the container. The container should not dominate the plant material in size, color, or texture.

After assembling a natural garden, it can be maintained if misted or sprayed often, as most planting pockets are rather shallow. Lava rocks absorb moisture so placing the planted lava rock in a tray under your lights is helpful.

Sphagnum moss holds moisture well. Soak sphagnum moss for several days. Wrap the sphagnum moss around the roots of the plants. Using wet sphagnum moss keeps

your work area, table, container and plants cleaner than using soil. When you use it to wrap the roots of your plants, don't have the sphagnum moss sopping wet, just moist. A lot of times you have to prune the roots. When traveling, you can pack sphagnum moss in a Cool Whip carton.

Many types of plants can be used. Some of the more common ones are norfolk pine, miniature bonsai trees, mini begonias, miniature sinningias, miniature ferns, baby tears, and miniature ficus. Aralias are a good standby if you cannot find a bonsai tree. They root readily and you can cut off the stem and it will send up side shoots and make a nice tree. You can also take cuttings that root easily and root some when preparing a month or two before the show. (Or you can do what I do.... frantically visit every nursery within a 100 mile radius looking for suitable plants!!) Any tropical plants can be used, but of course, no succulents.

Fire ferns are lovely but difficult to use in color schemes. Using background plants with a lot of color may take away from your African violet. Nonblooming micro miniature African violets make nice little "bushes", as long as you have one or more blooming violets.

Green moss makes a good ground cover (and looking for moss can be an exciting adventure. Jane Rexilius and I usually have "moss alerts" when we are going to a show.) You can look under tables in greenhouses or nurseries for moss growing in moist conditions. Usually the best moss is found in the wintertime. Sometimes you can take moss that is already brown and hold it under cold water and place in a clear plastic shoe box and it may "green up". Bill says this moss will keep for several months under cool conditions. Mine never seems to survive for very long.

I've tried several times to "grow" moss but haven't had luck for any length of time. I read a note in one of my gardening books that said if you spread buttermilk on rocks or bricks and then place moss on it and keep the area damp that moss will grow. I haven't tried that yet but it is on my list of things to do. There is also a live sheetmoss that you can buy and sometimes it has a green tint to it. This is permissible to use and often if you soak it in water, it will turn a shade of green.

Any plant material used in a natural garden must be used to growing in an open environment because it will go

down fast because of the shallow planting pockets. You can chip out the planting hole if it is not large enough. Place a plastic tent over your entire garden if you will be away from home for a few days. Your natural garden can also be kept in natural light. Regardless of where you place your garden, constant moisture is necessary to keep it indefinitely. However, if your container is a piece of log or wood, the wood will deteriorate over a period of time with it being exposed to constant moisture.

The concepts of good design should be followed. The landscape plan counts for 40 points and the scene is the landscape plan. Your landscape design should be in a straight line with no gradation. Your plants and accessories are arranged to create a landscape in miniature. This can be either a portion of a broader scene or suggestion of meadows, woods, valleys, cliffs, gardens, etc. You can make your planting fit any show theme and you can give a hint on the card you write. The effect should be of an established planting and points should be deducted if exhibit appears to be newly planted.

The violet(s) used in your planting is not judged on its symmetry or on a scale of points. Trailers do not need to have three crowns to be used in a container garden. The African violet in your container garden does not need to be the focal point as it does in plant arrangements, but the violet should be well grown with a reasonable amount of

bloom and be free of pests and disease. Cultural perfection counts for 10 points, and condition of materials counts for 20 points. All plants should be properly groomed and the container and accessories should be clean.

The combination of materials should be harmonious and there should be contrast of texture, size, color, and height to add interest. Suitability of materials counts for 20 points and plants used should be those that are compatible when grown in the same cultural environment.

Normally, use only one blooming African violet. If you use two or three, be sure to use the same variety. If you use more than one, be very careful with coordinating colors. The size of all plants should be in reasonable proportion and scale to each other. The exhibitor does not have to grow the plants used in container gardens.

Accessories should be appropriate to the class title, type of planting and reasonably scaled to the size of the container. Bill suggests that unless you need an accessory to depict the theme, don't use one. If you do, use a small one and hide it.

Plexiglass or a sheet of plastic can be used to protect the table top in the show but natural gardens cannot have a base.

*Reprinted with permission from the
Lone Star AV Council Newsletter, Texas*

Guidelines for Judges

1. Do not use age as the determinate of experience. Experience is acquired by studying, keeping current, and growing a wide range of African violets. Judges who do not maintain their currency by studying and growing the newer varieties of African violets should not accept judging invitations.
2. Giving away ribbons is worse than withholding ribbons; the practice does not encourage better growing nor does it uphold the principles of AVSA. It also discourages growers and exhibitors who work hard on their plants to see poorly grown specimens given the same recognition as their plants.
3. It is probably true that judges who judge "by-the-book" are not asked to judge as frequently as the more lenient, club pleaser judges — but, in the long run, they are more respected.
4. Don't give an entry a ribbon just because it is in the show. Remember, some entries are permitted either because the Entries Committee lacked the courage to disqualify, or the entries were added at the last minute to fill space.
5. Answer invitations to judge promptly. Accept only when qualified.
6. Study the schedule carefully *before* arriving to judge.
7. Arrive at show at least 15 minutes *before* the appointed time.
8. Before judging, take time for a quick walk-through of the entire show; however, do not finalize opinion until you take a close look at entries when judging.
9. Be tolerant when assessing the work of novices or entries in the first show of a new club; however, don't be over-tolerant to the point of awarding ribbons to clearly inferior plants.
10. Be cognizant of a poor growing season and unusual weather conditions. Also, be cognizant of the environmental changes from home to show room, and their effect on plants.
11. Special awards should not be awarded just because they are available. They should be given only for marked superiority.
12. Look for overall appearance, beauty, and condition (ABCs); don't strain at technicalities.
13. Stay at least three feet back from arrangements. Don't touch, pry at, or poke at arrangements. Look for harmony and balance, and schedule interpretation. Remember, the arrangement should carry your eyes smoothly from point A to point B, and the African violets or blossoms should be an integral part of the flow. Points should only be deducted for mechanics when they clearly detract from the total arrangement.
14. Respect entries; don't make flippant or caustic remarks.
15. Don't let personal prejudices affect your judging; always maintain objectivity.
16. Be tolerant of new judges; respect their views; let them participate in decisions; make them feel like part of the team. Do not relegate new judges to low man on the totem pole.
17. Take time to sign blue ribbons and blue ribbon entry cards in a Standard Show.
18. Write discreet and tactful comments on entry cards, when time permits, and sign your name. Do not delegate this to a clerk.
19. Do not write criticisms on blue ribbon entry cards. If the entry deserves criticism, then it doesn't deserve a blue.
20. When you write the criticism, start with a compliment. Help the exhibitor by positive rather than negative suggestions. A good exhibitor wants to know where points were lost.
21. Always remember, as judges, our main responsibility is to educate and perpetuate better culture.
22. After judging, personally thank clerks for their help.
23. Write a thank-you note to Chairman of Judges for having you judge, within ten days of assignment.

*Reprinted with permission from "The Florida Connection",
publication of the AV Council of FL*

Growing Large Show Plants

From a talk given by Marie Burns
at the 1997 Dixie African Violet Society Convention

Whenever I am introduced to someone new in the violet world, I am asked, "How do you get your plants so large?" and "Do you put wax on your leaves?" To answer those and other questions, I'll tell you how I grow African violets.

1. The most important step is to pick plants that are bred to be large growers - 18" to 24".
2. Choose plants with natural symmetry. Some plants naturally grow in a good shape.
3. Be sure the variety has adequate blossoms and good blossom size.
4. Pick color combinations that are attention grabbing, with eye appeal, such as dark foliage and bright-colored blooms.
5. Be sure the blossoms are true to the hybridizer's description in the *Master Variety List*.
6. Begin disbudding as soon as you have checked the above point. I leave a 1/4" stub and disbud for about a year - until eight to nine weeks before a show. This forces the growth energy into making roots and leaves.
7. Remember, some plants just won't like you. Give or throw those away.
8. My plants are started in Dixie Cups, then moved up in six to eight weeks to a 3" pot, then moved up in six to eight weeks to a 4" pot, then to a 5" pot as needed.
9. Remember, some plants just don't tolerate disbudding. When you find a variety that hates to be disbudded, discard it.
10. Limit the number of plants you grow. When I was growing plants more actively, I limited myself to ten plants and most of the time, all ten of those plants would make it to the show.

I find that pH has a lot to do with determining the size of a plant, with 6.4 to 6.5 seeming to be ideal for my method of growing. I find if the pH is closer to 7, the plant will have smaller leaves. I use Superthrive, at the rate of one drop to one gallon of water, faithfully, when I give the plants water. The dehydrated cow manure in my soil mixture is what gives the sheen to the foliage and also makes for larger plants, using one cup to eight large coffee cans of soil. Be sure to mix the soil well, and pasteurize it, but do not sterilize it or you will kill the microorganisms that make the plant grow.

Your soil must be light and airy and lightly dampened.

The way you pot and repot can change the diameter of your plants. Potting too tightly will make smaller leaves and plants. There needs to be a lot of air space in the soil to get large plants. When I pot my plants, I put them down a little lower in the pot than most people do, sort of using the edges of the pot to support the leaves. Show plants are given my best growing area. Everyone has a place where their plants will do best.

When the plant is freshly repotted, set the pot into a dish that contains about 1" of water, for three to four hours, or even as long as overnight to "set the air spaces." I prefer not to top water as it compacts the soil and eliminates the air spaces that are so important for growing a large plant. I use plain water with no fertilizer for the first two weeks after repotting, using only Superthrive then. Since my soil mixture is rich, when I do use fertilizer, I only use 1/8 teaspoonful to a gallon of water. I like Miller's 20-20-20 fertilizer most of the year but if it isn't available for you, use a water soluble fertilizer such as Miracle Gro 15-30-15 or Peters.

Repot, repot, repot every three months and sometimes sooner, depending on the speed of growth for each individual plant. If you don't repot frequently, you will end up with a smaller row of leaves that show when you missed doing it. With all of the energy going into leaves and roots, the plants have to have room to grow. Sometimes, really large plants go into pots as large as seven inches in diameter. My final repotting is done three months prior to a show to let roots fill the pot, and to make more bloom. If a plant needs to go into a larger pot and it is closer than three months until a show, wait until the blossom buds are showing — as many buds as you think the plant needs. I do not let my plants dry out before I repot them.

I remove lower leaves constantly, before they age or begin to hang down, keeping the plants at three or four rows of leaves. Plants are allowed to grow more leaves ten to twelve weeks before show. This saves you from having to do the removal at the last minute.

Give your plants plenty of room. Plants tend to fill the space available! Once plants are in 5" pots, there are only two plants on a shelf. Leaf supports are used at all stages of growth from a 3" pot on up. Leaf supports seem to protect the plants by keeping me from injuring the leaves.

Be sure to turn your plants once a week, even if they are in the center of the light stand. This makes the foliage

more symmetrical and the blooms will be evenly distributed.

Rearrange the foliage as needed. If it refuses to cooperate, get rid of the plant. You can use Saran Wrap to help move leaves, leaving it on for two to three days. Light gets through the plastic, it is soft and gentle and helps to convince the foliage to go where you want it to go. Clean leaves are needed to give the plants the light they need. You can brush them or even wash them if it is necessary, but never let water sit in the center of the plant. When bloom stalks appear, guide them through the foliage as soon as they appear to give even blossom distribution. If you are going to bathe your plants, do it before the blossoms are open.

Wipe your fluorescent tubes clean, often. They seem to attract and hold dust. One Cool White tube and one Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum tube in each fixture works best for me, to bring the plants to maturity faster. Giving plants less light gives larger leaves. I use ten hours of lighting time for the first three to four months of a plant's growth, then move to eleven hours, and never more than twelve hours. Another thing to remember regarding light is to change your fluorescent tubes before they need it.

As to humidity, that depends on your individual growing location. I have to use a humidifier upstairs and a dehumidifier downstairs. I grow my plants on wicking on trays which does put extra humidity into the air. I try for 60 to 65% humidity for optimum growth. I do not mist my plants. It just isn't needed for my plant growing area. Foliar feeding is a good aid for larger foliage. It helps to give the plants a boost but you can grow large plants without it. To foliar feed, you have to be dedicated and persistent or you

do more harm than good. Plants use 90% of the sprayed-on food, and once this program is started, you must stay with it until you are ready to let the plants bloom. If you want to foliar feed, a small pressure mister is the easiest way to do it, using 1/8 teaspoonful of fertilizer to one gallon of hot water, twice a week. Hot water is important for misting or foliar feeding because it cools rapidly as it is sprayed into the air. Foliar feed when the temperature is rising and mist very lightly. Do not let water collect at the edges of the leaves. For beginners, I recommend liquid seaweed or fish emulsion. Do not use Superthrive for foliar feeding.

When I quit disbudding, I change to a bloom booster fertilizer that has a very high middle number. You can foliar feed your variegated foliage plants if you want to, but take a tissue and cover the white center leaves of the plant so the spraying mist will only get on the larger outside leaves. Some plants seem to have a tendency to haloing. If this problem occurs, break up a fish stick and put it into the sides of the pot. This will give an extra nitrogen boost to the plant.

One last tip, you can use carpet padding in the bottoms of the boxes you use to transport your plants to show. This stops the plants from "walking" as you drive. Add a few of my suggestions to your growing system and be prepared to answer the question, "How do you get your plants so large?"

*Reprinted with permission from
"The Florida Connection", AV Council of Florida*

Show Manners

by Pauline Bartholomew

Competition brings out the worst in some people and the best in others. Make sure you place yourself in the latter category. You will have much more fun exhibiting if you observe two simple rules of good show manners.

First, always do your share of the work. New growers may not be aware of how many months of preparation go into putting on a judged show. To arrive at the last minute, enter your plants, return to pick them up (plus possible awards), and go home will not win friends and influence people. The show chairman can always find a job for even the most inexperienced club member. Ask.

Second, be delighted if you win, but also be a good loser. Even though you may pride yourself on being a good sport, there may come a time when you are

from **Growing To Show**

tempted to challenge a judging decision you believe to be unfair. Should that day come, bite your tongue! Creating a big stir puts you in an unflattering light and probably won't change a thing. (The decision of the judges is final.) As an exhibitor, you can't know of all the factors that went into making a decision. For the most part, judges are very conscientious and make every effort to be fair. Shrug off the defeat and be the first to congratulate the winners.

And finally, keep in mind that everyone is under pressure: the show committee, the judges, and the exhibitors. Put all of your competitive drive into the growing of plants. After they are entered in a show relax, have fun, and consider any awards you win as a bonus for an exciting experience.



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2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

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1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
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PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

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3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40
4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

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(recessed snap-on lids,	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
wicks not included)	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

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	2.00	9.00	17.00

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8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75		
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00		
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20		
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	4.75	27.00	51.00		

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11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

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		4 qts.	16 qts.
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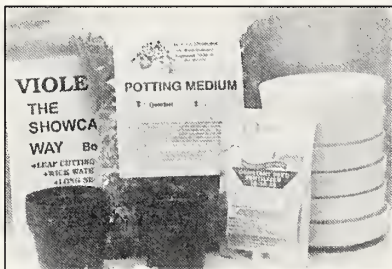
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6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
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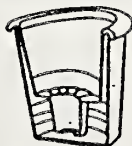
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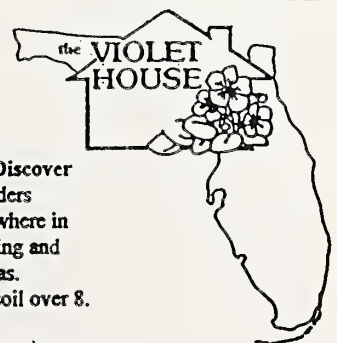
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African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

July • August 1998

Volume 51

Number 4



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

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SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Billie Golla, 955 Mission Hills Dr., New Braunfels, TX 78130-7213.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

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LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

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AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094.

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RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

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African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

July • August

Volume 51

Number 4

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COVER

Rob's Fuddy Duddy
Best In Show
1998 AVSA National Show
Exhibited by:
Bev Promersberger
Hybridizer: R. Robinson
Semiminiature
Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



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OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
 3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
 10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: jwilson941@aol.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
 922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
 1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rrumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
 19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: jtcarter@worldnet.att.net

Jane Rexilius, Publications
 5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
 1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
 2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.





President's Message

Dear AVSA Members:

Our 52nd Annual Convention was a splendid week for AVSA members. Except for one day of rain, the weather in Sacramento was absolutely beautiful. "Discover California" provided a variety of interesting activities for those in attendance. Conventioneers on tours discovered the beautiful scenery of Lake Tahoe and the Napa Valley, discovered "Belly Flops" at the Jelly Belly factory, and discovered many "golden" shopping opportunities in Truckee, Nevada City, and Old Sacramento. Of course, the Commercial Sales Rooms, the various promotional tables, and the auction at the Saturday luncheon were a "gold mine" for conventioneers, offering all kinds of treasures for African violet enthusiasts. The workshops covered a wide range of topics on growing our favorite plants, the on-line group meeting had a record attendance, and, as always, the show featured many outstanding plants and designs.

On behalf of all members, I want to express our appreciation to the Northern California Affiliated Chapters, under the leadership of Convention Chairman Barbara Elkin, Vice Chairman Byron Borck, Show Chairman Jeani Hatfield, and Show Vice Chairman Jackie Kenney, for your hospitality. I would also like to thank Convention Director Ann Miller and the members of the Convention Committee for their dedication to producing a successful convention. We were all sorry that Ann had to miss part of the convention due to the death of her father-in-law early in convention week. Thanks to Convention Committee Vice Chairman Linda Owens for taking over while Ann was away. In addition, I want to thank the commercial members who traveled great distances and took the extra steps to meet the agricultural inspection requirements to take plants into California. Thanks also go to Pat Richards for coordinating our first auction at the Saturday Luncheon, to all those who contributed items, and to Jack Wilson for serving as auctioneer. It was great fun and was quite successful.

One additional "Thank You" goes to all of the exhibitors for growing and transporting all of those gorgeous plants and designs to enter in the convention show. Your extra effort and dedication are definitely appreciated. Congratulations to Bev Promersberger for her Best in Show and to Cathy Cornibe for her Best in Design.

Plans for next year's convention are well under way. Scheduled for April 4-11, 1999, in Houston, this should be the perfect time to visit the AVSA Office, the NASA Space Center, and a host of beautiful gardens. So plan now to get your tax returns done early and head for Houston next April for "A Lone Star Violet Round-Up."

The Board of Directors met during the recent convention. I am pleased to report that the Board approved two recommendations of great significance to the members of AVSA. First is the recommendation of an ad hoc committee appointed by the President to establish an AVSA Scholarship Program. A new special committee chaired by Dr. Charles Ramser will develop further guidelines and administer the AVSA Scholarship Program. Second, four proposals for grants from the Boyce Edens Research Fund were also approved by the Board. The four projects recommended by the Research Committee, chaired by Dr. Charles Cole, will deal with Testing and Nutritional Guidelines for African Violets, Botrytis Control in African Violets, Controlling Western Flower Thrips and Other Pests of African Violets, and DNA Typing and Genetic Sequencing of the African Violet Species.

The new Judge's Handbook and MVL #8 are now available from the AVSA Office. Several new items from the Ways and Means Committee are also available, including mouse pads, mugs, letter openers, pins, and a new watch design. Check the ad later in this issue of the *African Violet Magazine* (page 40) and get your orders in early. **Supplies are limited.**

AVSA has recently joined forces with Garden Web to sponsor a new African Violet Bulletin Board on the Internet. This forum offers African violet growers from around the world an opportunity to exchange information about growing our favorite plants. To participate, point your browser to <<http://www.gardenweb.com/forums/afrviolet/>>.

Happy growing,

Esther Edwards Wells

Esther Edwards Wells
AVSA President

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

This issue of the AVM features photographs of some of the award-winning plants from the 1998 convention in Sacramento, CA. Our executive Committee heard your requests for more color in the *African Violet Magazine*, and you'll be pleased to see the many beautiful plants displayed in this issue - most of them show-stoppers from the 1998 AVSA National Convention.

To find out who *all* the winners are, read the show highlights on page 5.

A copy of the white mailing cover that will protect your September AVM is reprinted on page 44 of this issue. AVSA has several new items that should be of interest to you; the new MVL and Judge's Handbook, as well as the new ideas from our Ways and Means Committee. See the new Ways and Means selections in color on page 40. These featured items are in **limited supply**, so you'll want to get your order in right away.

The Sacramento and Napa Valley areas are fine examples of the beauty of California. While at the convention, AVSA Administrative Coordinator, **Jenny Daugereau**, and I rented a car and explored the Napa Valley, filming miles and miles of vineyards and the breath-taking countryside.

The CA Convention Committee, under the direction of **Barbara Elkin**, did a wonderful job. It was great to see old friends and meet many of those I've only spoken with on the phone. Several of our Canadian members managed to join us this year, and I had been looking forward to meeting newlyweds **Winston** and **Laurel Goretsky**. Fortunately, Winston agreed to be AVSA's photographer, and you'll find his photos sensational. Look for them on the covers of the AVM for the next 6 issues, as well as some of the Showcase photos. It was also a lot of fun to meet

Maida Den Oudsten, Gabriela Liberty and **Ingrid Nelson**. See some of those who "Discovered California" on pages 42 and 43.

As the AVSA conventions are held in different areas of the country each year, I want to encourage all of you to do your best to attend. It can be a fun, rewarding experience - not only in the plants you'll see (and buy), the knowledge you'll gain, but in the friendships you'll make.

Thanks to all of the Board members who worked with me at the AVSA Sales Table. **Gary Gordon** and **Ron Davidson** worked more shifts than called for, and it's apparent that they're both salesmen at heart.

Our Ways and Means Chairman, **Mary Walbrick**, was a study in dedication, never leaving the Ways and Means table and selling an amazing number of those new items. (Again, page 40.)

A recent note from my friends, **Bill** and **Kay Lyons**, demonstrates once again how caring AV folks are. Kay lost her collection of AVMs, spanning over 25 years, when their Pennsylvania home flooded in 1996. Imagine their surprise when they were approached in Sacramento by folks from Ohio, asking if Kay was still looking for back issues! Somehow, an article had appeared in the Ohio State newsletter, telling of their plight. The Lyons want to thank **Anne Tinari, Janet Riemer, Union County AVS (NJ)** and the **AVSA office staff** for helping Kay completely replace her collection.

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of **Dick Maduro**, former owner of the Violet House in Gainesville, FL. With his wife, Ann, Mr. Maduro attended many AVSA conventions and had been a great help to **Bill** and **Bebe Edwards**, current owners of the Violet House.



**CONVENTION 1999
HOUSTON, TEXAS
APRIL 4 - 11**



**START MAKING YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND
NOW!!!!**

1998 AVSA NATIONAL SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

52nd Annual AVSA Convention
Sacramento, CA

Best in Show	Rob's Fuddy Duddy	Bev Promersberger
Second Best in Show	Ness' Cranberry Swirl	Carroll Gealy
Third Best in Show	Suncoast Paisley Print	Carroll Gealy
Best AVSA Standard Collection	Fredette's Moonflower, Favorite Child, Suncoast Paisley Print	Carroll Gealy
Second Best AVSA Standard Collection	Ness' Viking Maiden, Matecumbe, Nob Hill	Irene Boro
Best Trailer	Aggie Trail	Carroll Gealy
Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection	Sassy Shirley, Shy Blue, Ness' Cranberry Swirl	Carroll Gealy
Second Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection	Boo Man, Rob's Perfect Peach, Swing Along	Pat Richards
Best Holtkamp Collection	Optimara Little Ruby, Optimara Violet Sapphire, Optimara Little Opal	Kathy Lahti
Second Best Holtkamp Collection	Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara, Little Tourmaline, Optimara Little Moonstone	Fred Packer
Third Best Holtkamp Collection	Optimara Monet, Optimara Van Gogh, Optimara Michelangelo	Irene Boro
Best Miniature	Texas Space Dust	Bev Promersberger
Best Semiminiature	Rob's Fuddy Duddy	Bev Promersberger
Best Species	<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i> #299	Jim Turner
Sweepstakes in Horticulture		Fred Packer
Sweepstakes Runner-up in Horticulture		Irene Boro
Best in Design	"Balloon Adventures"	Cathy Cornibe
Second Best in Design	"Experience Yosemite Valley"	Mae Mendes
Third Best in Design	"Strike It Rich at Coloma"	Vera Parker
Sweepstakes in Design		Barbara Elkin
Sweepstakes in Design Runner-up		Laverne Cottet
Best Display Table		Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Second Best Display Table		Rob's Mini-o-lets
Third Best Display Table		Violet Showroom
Best New Introduction	Ms Smartypants	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Best Commercial AVSA Collection	Optimara Little Moonstone, Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Diamond	Shirley Sanders
Second Best Commercial AVSA Collection	Frosted Denim, Ness' Angel Babe, Rob's Tippy Toe	Fay Wagman
Best Commercial Specimen Plant	Ness' Angel Babe	Fay Wagman
Second Best Commercial Specimen Plant	Rob's Iridium Queen	Fay Wagman
Third Best Commercial Specimen Plant	Rob's Penny Ante	Fay Wagman
Best Commercial Other Gesneriad	<i>Columnnea</i> 'Julia'	Lynn Lombard
Best Commercial Holtkamp Collection	Optimara South Dakota, Optimara Harlequin, Rhapsodie Angelica	Kent's Flowers
Second Best Commercial Holtkamp Collection	Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Lapis, Optimara Little Ruby	Shirley Sanders
Third Best Commercial Holtkamp Collection	Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara Little Apatite, Optimara Rose Quartz	Fay Wagman
Commercial Horticulture Sweepstakes		Fay Wagman



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

AFRICAN VIOLET SCHOOL TIME!

Part two of a two part series.

The elementary skills of watering and lighting have been mastered, and your violets are staying alive. The secondary skills of fertilizing, choosing the proper soil and pot size are in place. Your violets are blooming most of the time, and you are enjoying your hobby. Can it get better? Is there more to learn? Definitely.

VIOLET COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

As you might expect, at college level there is a range of courses to study.

REPOTTING 101: If African violets are regularly transplanted, plants can live for over forty years. Not only will they survive that long, but they can also remain attractive!

A general rule is to transplant violets at least once a year. It may be done more often, especially if there is any evidence of a neck, or stalk, developing below the bottom row of leaves.

The reasoning for once-a-year repotting is that potting mixes tend to deteriorate and become more acid over time. If fresh soil is added at least once a year, violets will be more able to use fertilizer efficiently. This is because several key nutrients cannot be absorbed when the pH is too acid or alkaline, but almost all can be absorbed when the soil pH is neutral.

Repotting the neck promptly is partly cosmetic – violets look prettier when the rows of leaves are reasonably even with the rim of the pot. But there is a good cultural reason as well. The longer repotting is postponed, the more stressful the repotting will be.

Do not be tempted just to use a bigger pot with each transplanting! If a violet's roots cannot fill the bigger pot, all sorts of problems can result, most of which will likely result in rotting. Follow the rule that the pot should be one-third the diameter of the leaf span.

Ideally, repotting should be done when a neck is less than one inch long. Allow the plant to dry out a bit so that leaves will be less turgid and less likely to snap. Remove any

lower leaves that are fading or yellowing. Gently scrape away the dried scab-like tissue on the neck so that new roots will be able to generate from there.

Next, lift the plant out of the pot (squeezing or tapping the sides of the pot can help to loosen the soil ball). Cut away as much of the bottom of the rootball as there is neck. A one-inch neck would require a one-inch trimming of the root ball.

Next, place it into a pot that is appropriate for the violet's size. Fill in with fresh potting soil at the top, around the neck. Do not pack this down! Water the plant thoroughly until water drains out the bottom. Job is done!

Elongated necks (over three inches) can be repotted, but the technique is a bit different. Whenever all or most of the root system must be removed, it is necessary to provide a longer recovery period after repotting.

Once again, allow the plant to become slightly dry. Remove any aging leaves. Scrape the dried tissue on the neck. If the neck is so long that no roots can be retained, then cut away the entire root system, leaving only about one inch of neck. Fill a correctly-sized pot with fresh potting mix. Set the plant stalk down into the pot, being careful to center it. Add water until it runs out the bottom.

Finally, place the entire potted violet into a transparent closed container (such as a clear plastic bag). Be sure to close it tightly. Leave the plant for at least two to four weeks, or until the center shows signs of growing again. The high humidity will support the leaves while new roots are generating.

PROPAGATING 101: There are several methods for propagating African violets. This discussion will be limited to propagation that results in a clone of the parent plant, that is, offspring that is genetically the same as the parent.

Propagation of violets by leaf cutting is quite easy. Select and remove a fresh, healthy leaf. Cut the stem at an angle, leaving only about one inch of stem. Place this stem into a small container of fresh, very light potting mix. Water it in thoroughly, then put it in a closed transparent container. Self-sealing plastic bags work very well for this. Place it in a well-

lit location, but away from direct sunlight.

Some growers prefer to start leaves in a container of water before moving them to soil. If you prefer that method, we recommend that a leaf be planted as soon as the tiny roots begin to develop. It can be left in water until tiny plants are formed, but the root structure that forms will not transfer well into soil. Starting leaves in soil seems to present fewer transplanting problems.

Leaves will need about one month to develop a root system. After this, tiny plantlets should begin to form. They will gradually emerge from the soil, near the leaf stem. Be patient. Some leaves put up babies in a few weeks, some may take several months, and some produce very few offspring.

Once the baby plants are about two inches tall, they should be separated from the mother leaf and each placed in its own small pot. It will take a bit of experience to distinguish each separate small plant. If you should get two into one pot, you will soon notice that your small plant has a bushy look with more than one crown producing leaves. You must separate them so that each plant has its own pot!

A second method of propagating is to remove the sideshoots or suckers from a mature plant. Suckers are produced spontaneously by violets, often when there is some sort of stress to the plant. Suckers grow between rows of leaves and if they are left to grow, will cause your violet to become bushy and disorganized looking.

To remove a sucker, gently prod the base of it with the point of a dull pencil or semi-sharp object. Done correctly, it will come free as a distinct plant with several leaves. Be sure that you are seeing at least four tiny leaves before you remove the sucker! Sometimes flower stems have prominent "wing leaves" that can look like an incoming sucker. There will not be more than two leaves on a bud stem, however, so once four leaves are visible you may be sure it is an unwanted sucker.

Sometimes, when propagating, you will get a mutation (called a sport) rather than a clone of the parent plant. Sports are generally undesirable, although occasionally something totally new will appear in this way. Sports are especially common with violets that have bi-color flowers. Some growers believe that they get more babies coming "true" if they use the second method of propagating with suckers. This is absolutely true if you are propagating a plant that is a chimera. Chimeras, or pinwheels, have distinctive stripes on each lobe of its flower and can only be propagated using suckers.

GROOMING 101: Violets look best when clean and well-groomed. It requires good habits!

Any fading flowers should be clipped off the bud stem as you notice them. Once there is only one flower left, the entire bud stem should be pulled out.

Fading older leaves should also be removed. A leaf

would be considered old when it is on the bottom row and begins to lose its green color. Similarly, any leaves that are smaller than the leaves in the row above should be removed. It is normal for leaves in the outer row to age and fade.

Cultural problems (such as poor soil pH, fertilizer excess, or insects) can cause outer leaves to become mottled, develop brown edges, or to wilt. These leaves also need to be removed, but it is important to seek the reason behind these problems.

At least once a month, any suckers that are beginning to form should be removed. These suckers may be disposed of or propagated, but they must not be left to grow. One of the most important concepts in this upper-level of growing is that African violets should be grown with only one crown!

At least once a year, the leaves should be washed to remove dust and other build-up. In between, dust and debris can be brushed or blown away. Dirt will block sunlight from reaching cells and gives plants a dull look.

The easiest way to wash foliage is to hold the plant under a gentle stream of tap water adjusted to a temperature that is slightly warm to the touch. If the leaves have become grimy, they may be misted with a soapy solution first. Allow this to stand for about thirty minutes so that the soap can cut through the build-up, then rinse in the tap water. Gently blot each leaf dry using a soft cloth or absorbent sponge. Allow the plant to finish drying in a location out of direct sunlight.

Mastered all of these courses? Your violets are looking beautiful! You have earned your degree. Do you know everything? Not yet!

GRADUATE SCHOOL

At the highest level of African violet growing, specialties will be developed. Not everyone will need to know the ins and outs of each specialty. Only a few of the specialty areas will be interesting to most growers. Rather than present the facts here, we'll tell you where you can go to explore each area that interests you.

Please note that many of these topics are frequently discussed in articles in this magazine. To find articles that would have been in previous issues, consult the January-February magazine each year for the "Annual Index" which lists authors, titles, and subjects of all the articles printed in the previous year. If you do not have the issue listed, the AVSA office may be able to provide a reprint of the article in question.

GROWING SHOW PLANTS FOR COMPETITION:

Perhaps the most definitive book ever written on this subject is Pauline Bartholomew's text, *Growing to Show*, which is offered for sale in this magazine. A second fine book is the *AVSA Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors and Judges* (often called the "Judge's Handbook"), which is sold by the AVSA office and described just inside the front cover of this magazine. Both explain the steps involved to obtain

perfect show plants in easy language and are good texts to add to an African violet library.

SPECIALTY GROWING: As growers become more experienced, they often find that they prefer only one type of African violets. This might be miniatures or semiminiatures, standards or large standards, or trailing violets. Each type has techniques that are specialized. While this column provides general care information which is most applicable to standard-sized violets, there is one column devoted to the small plants. Writers often contribute articles about all types of African violets. The "Judges Handbook" will also give good guidelines.

INSECTS AND DISEASE: Many would argue that this is of interest to all growers, and perhaps it is. Not everyone should attempt to treat for insects and diseases, however. Many of the chemicals are restricted and not for use by the casual grower. It is possible to grow beautiful violets without bugs or disease just by disposing of any plants that are not growing normally.

For those who wish to make a study of insects, we would recommend Dr. Charles Cole's book, *Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets*, which is offered for sale by several advertisers and the AVSA office.

Diseases of African violets have never been the sole topic of any one book but are discussed in *Growing to Show*, the "Judges Handbook", and in many of the general books on African violets. Current articles may be most helpful since recommended treatments for disease may vary according to products that are on the market.

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY: Exactly how does a violet use sunlight, and what are the technical terms for each plant part? This truly is a college course. If this area interests you, find a good textbook or local college who offers horticultural classes. Plants are fairly consistent in structure, and African violet growers can benefit a great deal from this academic experience!

HYBRIDIZING: If the development of new hybrid cultivars interests you, Melvin Robey's "African Violets Gifts from Nature" treats the subject in some detail. You also would want to read Dr. Jeff Smith's column and various articles in back issues of this magazine. You may send Dr. Smith questions which he can respond to in his column. Contact other hybridizers for suggestions and encourage-

ment. Finally, almost any good biology text will explain Gregor Mendel's laws of genetics. Many hybridizers never master these scientific principles, but they do govern the results of African violet hybridizing.

SPECIES: The history of African violets is in the original species which were found in nature. These humble-looking violets are the foundation for all of the newer cultivars now available. There are some growers who feel a personal responsibility to protect and maintain them for future generations. The newest edition (1998) of the "Judges Handbook" is offering a detailed description of the individual characteristics of each of the twenty or so species that are known. This is a very helpful guide. There are also several commercials who offer species plants for sale who can answer many questions.

OTHER GESNERIADS: There are many cousins of African violets, all of which are classified as gesneriads. This is an extremely varied family of plants and can be a hobby in itself. The AGGS (American Gesneriad and Gloxinia Society) was designed to support this interest. New members joining (\$20 per year, \$25 for international addresses) will receive an instructional guide, a packet of seeds, and the magazine which is published four times a year. The membership chairmen are M. J. and D. B. Tyler, P. O. Box 1598, Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194. Once again, the "Judges Handbook" is a good source for beginners on the topic.

DESIGN: One of the most creative areas of study is artistic design using whole African violet plants as well as individual flowers. Again, an excellent discussion of the topic is found in the "Judges Handbook". Back issues of this magazine frequently offer articles regarding design.

NOW YOU KNOW EVERYTHING!???

It is humbling to list everything that could be known about something that seems so simple as an African violet. It also helps to explain why an entire society has grown up in support of it. There really is so much to know, and while there are a number of people who know quite a lot, there is no one who knows everything. Furthermore, just when you are positive that something is true, someone does a study that says it isn't. It keeps the hobby interesting.

Keep learning!

CORRECTION:

May/June 1998 AVM

"Grooming is more Important than you Think!"
page 27

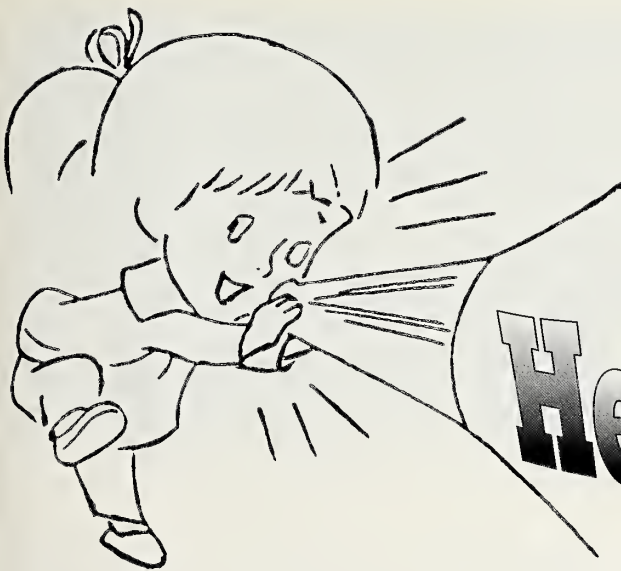
Under paragraph beginning... **DEDUCT 1/2 point per blossom for:**

Delete "not enough blossoms for plant size;"

NEW SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER

Please send your
show schedules for approval to:

Billie Golla
955 Mission Hills Dr.
New Braunfels, TX 78130-7213



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

An affiliate is a club or society of members in a local area that chooses to join and work with AVSA to provide a convenient association for those interested in African violets and to stimulate interest and education in the propagation and culture of African violets. We had several new affiliates that were listed in the September issue of the African Violet magazine. We want to welcome the following affiliates to AVSA that have not been listed:

Katy Trail African Violet Club
President - Helen Blanton
622 Riverside Drive
St. Charles, MO 63304

East Tennessee African Violet Society
Oak Ridge Civic Center, 1403 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
First Thursday of each month, 6-8 p.m.
Contact: Melanie Deaderick
106 Oak Hill Road, Clinton, TN 37716
423-463-9972 or E-mail <Melmooch@aol.com>

If you have not found an affiliate in your area, maybe you would like to be a part of one of the following groups that are in the process of getting organized. We want to encourage them in their progress and hope that they might find some new members among our readers.

New River Valley Area of Southwest VA
Blacksburg Area Library Community Room
Blacksburg, VA
Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.
Contact: K.C. Arceneaux 540-552-2462
Beth Patterson 540-552-6619

Holland/Grand Rapids, MI
Contact: Peggy Clear
281 Little Station, Holland, MI 49424
616-399-2129 or E-mail <clear@freenet.macatawa.org>
or
Ralph Haan
2857 Parkside Drive, Jenison, MI 49423
616-699-3713

Orlando, FL
Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Russell L. Martin
12741 Lower River Boulevard, 32828-9003
407-380-0454 or E-mail <rusmartin3@juno.com>

If you are in the process of organizing a club and would like to have your meeting and contact information printed in the next magazine listing (September), please send the information to Bev Promersberger.

If you still have not found a club or an affiliate to assist you with your love of the African violet, please request the packet of material that is available to you and start your own club or study group. The packet is a basic guide to help you gather interested growers together, find a meeting place, select the time and day, and to help you get started. You can request this packet by writing:

Bev Promersberger
17415 Charter Pines Drive
Monument, CO 80132
E-mail <promers@juno.com>

A Helping Hand

Into The Future

by Bev Promersberger
Monument, CO

"Dear African Violet Society,

I appreciate all you have done to help my class and me grow my African Violet. You spent a lot of your time and knowledge with us.

I thank you from the top to the bottom of my heart for all the equipment you let us use.

For Mother's Day I gave my mom my plant, she enjoyed it and we are taking very good care of it.

Your friend and Plant Lover,
Katie"
(4th grade student)

Is your affiliate (club) looking for a new project? Do you want to interest a younger generation in your hobby? Our affiliate was so thankful to have a new meeting place in a local public school that we wanted to show our appreciation. The thank-you letter above is just one of the many we received as a result of our affiliate project.

We decided to present the idea of teaching one of the grades the basics of propagating and growing African violets. The principal was thrilled and had no difficulty getting a teacher to volunteer her class for the project.



Volunteer making sure the plants are carefully labeled.

The class that was selected was a 4th/5th grade combination. After permission was granted to proceed with the project, I returned to our club to ask for volunteers to help with the program. Another experienced grower and I offered to take charge of the program. It was easy to get new growers to join us, giving us more hands to assist the students. This was a great opportunity for some of our new members to learn more about the basics.

This project takes about one hour of class time, four times a year, October, November, January and May. In order to proceed with this project, the following is a detailed schedule for your guidance.

September:

1. Discuss the project with your affiliate to see if it is interested in pursuing it.
2. Recruit three to four people to visit the classroom with at least one in charge of each meeting. The position of leadership can be shared or done by the same volunteer each time.
3. Present the project to the principal or teacher at a local elementary or middle school.



Volunteer making sure the pot is properly prepared for transplanting the starter.



Volunteers guiding the students as they transplant the starters.



Volunteers checking the plants transplanted into a soil mix.

October:

1. Meet with the class for about one hour on a day and time chosen by the teacher.
2. Spend about 20 minutes discussing the following:
What is a violet?
What is propagation?
Discuss leaf propagation and the procedure that the students will follow that day.
3. Following the demonstration, divide the students into groups with the volunteers helping each student cut and plant a leaf in his/her own solo cup or selected pot for propagation. You might even pot some extra leaves in case some of them don't survive. The leaves can be donated and labeled by the volunteer members prior to arriving. Leaves from other club members could also be requested, if needed. We used a mix consisting of equal



One of many students proceeding on her own.

parts of vermiculite and perlite, but you can use whatever propagating medium you are most comfortable using. The students fill the solo cups with the propagating mixture prepared in advance, cut and place the leaf in the cup, and put the plant name label on the cup with a second label with his/her name.

4. Place the solo cups on matting in a permaprest tray and set the tray in the best window location available. Show

the students how to check and water the leaves each day. If possible, one of your volunteers might even make periodic inspections.

November:

1. Approximately one month later the volunteer group returns to the classroom. You do not want to wait until the leaves produce babies because you do not want the students to be discouraged waiting for them to become mature enough to separate.
2. Review the information shared in October and show the students the second step of the project, how to separate the babies and pot them into individual solo cups. Clumps ready to separate can be donated by the team of volunteers or by additional members of the club, thus giving more members an opportunity to participate in the project.
3. Again, divide the students into groups and guide them as they work together to separate the clumps, each one potting a plant in a solo cup. The labels can be printed in advance, and each student places it on his/her plant with his/her name. The mix for potting the babies is best prepared prior to the meeting. Consider potting up some extra babies in case some do not



One of the students carefully placing her plant with the others in the tray to be placed by the window.

survive or in case some additional students join the class before the project is completed.

4. Arrange the babies on matting in a second permaprest tray, and place the tray in the window by the tray of leaves. Repeat the instructions for checking and watering the plants. This would also be a good time to discuss a mild fertilizing program (1/8 tsp per gallon of water) to begin when the plants begin to show growth. Also, if possible, have one of the volunteers make a weekly check to make sure that they are progressing.

January:

1. You will probably want to skip meeting with the students until after the first of the year. It's a busy time for all, and the babies won't be ready for transplanting until sometime in January. By this time you will probably find that the babies transplanted in November are about three times the diameter of the pot, ready to be transplanted into a three-inch pot with soil mixture.
2. Review the information on propagating leaves and separating babies from our first two meetings with the students.
3. Spend about twenty minutes discussing:
Why it is time to repot (three times diameter of the pot)
The importance of a light, porous soil mixture
A simple mixture and ingredients
Methods of watering, especially wicking or whatever method you wish to use for the project
DON'T FORGET TO DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WICK BEING WET TO DRAW WATER
4. Break into groups again and transplant the babies into soil mix with wicking, placing them back into a permaprest tray by the window, giving the students instructions for care, watering, fertilizing, and rotating toward the light for even growth. Be sure to transplant the extra ones in case they are needed.

5. It is important for a volunteer to continue checking the plants to make sure they are watered, fertilized, rotated for even growth and even separated into two trays as they begin to grow and need more room.

May:

1. The week before Mother's Day should be your last visit with the students. Many, but maybe not all, of the violets should be in bloom.
2. Discuss continued care of the violet, light, water, fertilizer, and rotation.
3. Some of the things the club might consider providing for each student are foil to wrap the plant for Mother's Day gift giving, small packets of fertilizer, and even some kind of individual water aids like margarine tubs or the Volkmann water aid.
4. We even asked our club photographer to attend and take pictures of our final meeting with the students.

It is important to plan the project carefully so that the students are not overwhelmed. It is better that they learn a little at a time. Use as many visual aids as possible. Always be prepared, and keep it clear and simple.

Each student should have a plant, watering container and fertilizer to give their mother for Mother's Day. They should also take their rooted leaves which, by this time, should show babies.

I don't know how many of the students involved in our project are growing or have an interest in growing African violets. I did encounter a mother at a basic Care and Culture lecture that I gave at the local horticulture center several years later. She shared with me that the reason she attended my lecture was to find out how to care for the violet she received from her daughter for Mother's Day several years earlier. You guessed it - our school project! You never know who you might end up helping.

Needed: Nominations for the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership

The Mabel and Glen Hudson Award was established to honor individuals for outstanding leadership activities within an affiliated chapter. The recipient is recognized at the closing banquet of the annual convention with a citation and a very nice award. All affiliate groups are encouraged to suggest names of potential candidates for this award. Secretaries of affiliates should send the name of the nominee, along with

a detailed list of leadership activities and accomplishments to:

Linda L. Golubski
AVSA Awards Committee Chair
1416 NW A Street
Blue Springs, MO 64015
(816) 229-2051 after 6:00 PM CST
e-mail: golubski@kc.net

Complete information should be submitted no later than November 1,

1998 to be considered for the award that will be presented at the 1999 AVSA Convention in Houston, Texas. In order for the Awards Committee to give your recommendations maximum consideration, please share as much information as possible, focusing on contributions at the local affiliate level. There is a form to use as a guide that may be obtained by calling, writing or e-mailing to the above addresses.

What a Lifesaver!

by Rose Marie Yeates
Ft. Pierce, FL

At the point in my life when middle age began to creep up on me, with all the "changes" that entails, African violets were introduced to me. Since I have always been an avid gardner and have always adorned our home with houseplants, this flowering houseplant didn't have to do much to win my heart. One, two, three, four and then many, many more African violets found their way into our home.

In time, much to the dismay of my husband, he was slowly losing the use of his tool/work bench down in our basement as it became a "potting bench" for my African violets. Gardening tools, potting soil and dirty pots were all he ever saw on his tool bench.

Finally, one day I heard pounding down in the basement. When I went downstairs to investigate, much to my surprise, I saw metal storage racks, four-foot fluorescent shop lights and paneling lying all over the basement floor. Much to my delight, my husband was dividing the basement in half, one side for him and one side for me!

This plant room became a little bit of heaven to me and to many of my friends who were also violet hobbyists. At any one given time I must have had a couple hundred violets down in our basement. Plantlets, small plants in 2 1/4" and 3" pots, good-sized plants, 4" pots and of course, leaves that I had put down in rooting medium in hopes of adding more plants to my collection.

I joined the African Violet Society of West New York and went on to join the African Violet Society of America, whose magazine has provided me with a wealth of knowledge on growing, grooming and propagating these beautiful plants.

In meeting with my physician at this time in my life, I was asked how I was "weathering the storm".

"How are you coping with hot flashes and depres-

sion?" he asked.

"No problem," I replied. "I go down in my basement to what I call my violet haven and lose myself in all there can be done when you are raising a couple hundred African violets."

Impressed, he told me, "I wish more women could find something to overcome the 'blahs' and forego taking medication to get through what could be a most unpleasant phase of life". Needless to say, I was quite proud of myself and my African violets at that time.

In 1989, we sold our home in Buffalo, New York and relocated to Florida. We hoped to extend my husband's longevity, as in the years prior to his retirement he had become a cardiac patient.

Now here I am, eight years later, and guess what? The African violets and my hubby have come to the rescue once again.

We miss our family up north. We especially miss the opportunity of watching our grandchildren grow. I'm back to relying on African violets to get me through some depressing times. My husband has built me a plant stand with four shelves, each housing a four-foot fluorescent shop light.

Once again, this amazing plant has come into my life, providing me with the contentment, satisfaction and pride I had experienced once before. I owe my soul to this incredible house plant. I am awfully proud to say that with all my years of working with these lovely plants up north, I was known as "the plant doctor", and now down here in Florida I have regained my "title". I feel so good when people ask my advice about raising my favorite house plant.

It is my belief that the African violet has played as important a role in my life as any of my doctors, and the best part is there was no pain involved to cure my ills!



Ed Hoefer's AFRICAN VIOLET BLOOM JELLY

1 quart African violet blooms in boiling water
2 or 3 tablespoons lemon juice

Pour boiling water over violet blooms and let set overnight. Strain off 2 cups liquid, add lemon juice and Sure-Jell®. Bring to full boil, add sugar. Put back on heat, and cook 1 minute at a rolling boil. Pour into sterilized jars and seal.

You can also put the blossoms on food to decorate the

1 package "Sure-Jell®"
4 cups sugar

plate, or they look great on desserts. You may also float them in the punch bowl.

Note: Be sure the blossoms you use have not been sprayed with chemicals.

Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

Many thanks to **Barbara Elkin** and her fine convention crew for the wonderful week in Sacramento. You have much to be proud of. Now, on to the plants!

AWARD-WINNING BEAUTIES

Gracing center stage this year was **'Rob's Fuddy Duddy'**, a cultivar so well known for its performance that it needs little introduction. This Best in Show exhibit, grown by veteran grower **Bev Promersberger** of Monument, Colorado, had gorgeously formed black-green, shiny foliage topped by a mound of medium to dark orchid-purple blooms. This is a small-growing semimini, one that you'll never have to take the ring out for! Other specimens of this cultivar were in evidence around the showroom, each having a mass of blooms and perfectly formed foliage, but none quite so dark and well-grown as this prize-winning entry. (Another tidbit about this cultivar: it is a mildew magnet! So grow it for two reasons: for performance and reliability, but also, it will be the first plant in your collection to remind you to be on the lookout for mildew!)

A personal favorite was 2nd Best in Show, **'Ness' Cranberry Swirl'**. With its double blooms of white and fuchsia stripes in abundance above naturally symmetrical, variegated foliage, this semiminature is a sure winner. Please note, while not a chimera, this plant comes true only from suckers. It was expertly grown by one of California's finest growers, **Carroll Gealy**, and was part of her gold rosette-winning, small AVSA Collection. The other plants in her collection included Pittman's super performer, 'Sassy Shirley', which has nice-forming, variegated foliage topped by blooms of the most delicate shade of lavender, and Lyon's 'Shy Blue', a variegated show-stopper that is easily topped by masses of light blue blooms.

The 2nd Best AVSA Semimini Collection was mine and featured plants from three of the most renowned hybridizers of small ones (Ness being the fourth). First was **'Boo Man'**

by Sidney Sorano, an easy-blooming cultivar with loads of light blue, frilled, white-edged blooms, which if grown cool, sometimes show a tinge of green. Dark, good-forming, and slightly ruffled foliage complete this outstanding semiminature. The second plant was **'Rob's Perfect Peach'**, again, an extremely reliable plant with perfectly symmetrical foliage and lovely peachy-pink blooms. Nothing fancy about this cultivar, just good, solid performance. The third plant was an older cultivar by Pittman, **'Swing Along'**. Again, if you want perfect symmetry, grow this older, very dark-foliaged variety which easily puts up a lovely bouquet of rose-colored, double blooms.

Bev Promersberger also grew the Best Miniature, **'Texas Space Dust'**, another Pittman hybrid with very nice, dark, variegated foliage topped with a prolific number of light pink blooms that show lots of "glitter". I don't have this one in my collection at present but it's a must-have! Perennial champion **Kathy Lahti** from Minnesota took top honors this year for the Best Holtkamp Collection with **'Optimara Little Ruby'**, **'Optimara Violet Sapphire'** and **'Optimara Little Opal'**. Kathy is remarkably consistent about putting together collections with plants of the same size and the same maturity. It takes quite a skilled showman to accomplish this. The 2nd Best Holtkamp Collection was grown by **Fred Packer**, who exhibited some absolutely amazing plants throughout the show and won the overall horticulture sweepstakes award. The cultivars in his collection were **'Optimara Little Crystal'**, **'Optimara Little Tourmaline'**, and **'Optimara Little Moonstone'**, all of which are good, solid performers. Congratulations, Fred! We hope to see more of your plants in future conventions.

IN THE SHOWROOM

There were three plants of special note in the showroom. **'Cool Blue'** is a newer hybrid by **Hortense Pittman** that is gaining much favor across the country for its tremen-

dous, easy-blooming ability. It has seemingly delicate blooms of sheer, medium blue with a good amount of glitter in them atop perfectly symmetrical, dark, shiny foliage. For ease of bloom, this semiminature can't be beat. A controversial oldie still being grown, and grown well by many Californians, is **'Rob's Copper Cat'**. This plant has very symmetrical, variegated foliage that is beautifully colored and slightly wavy. It is highly decorative even when not in bloom. The blooms, however, are very different: coppery pink, almost brownish salmon at times, with strong green, fringed edges that are borne in abundance. This plant is difficult to keep in size; nevertheless, Californians manage it very well! It was good to see it in the show. The third plant of note is **Cathy Cornibe's 'Cathy's Fireworks'**. This semiminature chimera deserves wider recognition around the nation. Its blooms have light pink stripes surrounded by fuchsia in abundance above perfectly formed, variegated foliage. There were several specimens throughout the show-room, all giving evidence to the deserved recognition of this plant.

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

In the commercial division, **Fay Wagman** took top honors with her expertly grown small ones! Coming all the way from New York, this is quite a feat. She took Best in Show in this division with **'Ness' Angel Babe'**, a miniature cultivar with perfectly formed, dark green foliage which easily puts up a mass of lightly ruffled, medium pink blooms. Again, nothing spectacular about it, just a good solid show plant! The 2nd Best plant was also shown by Fay, **'Rob's Iridium Queen'**. This slightly temperamental semiminature has white with varying amounts of cherry-red in its large, double blooms. The 3rd Best plant was also Fay's, **'Rob's Penny Ante'**. Many of you are familiar with this tiny-growing miniature that loves to hide its foliage with masses of white blooms with purple eyes. The most remarkable thing about Fay's plants is how truly small they were! They were not miniaturized: she simply has succeeded in growing them "small."

Shirley Sanders of Shirley's House of Violets once again won top awards with her delightful entries. She won the **Best Commercial AVSA Collection** with **'Optimara Little Moonstone'**, **'Optimara Rose Quartz'** and **'Optimara Little Diamond'**. Then, she turned around and

took the **2nd Best Commercial Holtkamp Collection**; with, three more Optimaras - **'Optimara Rose Quartz'**, **'Optimara Little Lapis'** and **'Optimara Little Ruby'**.

Fay Wagman grew the **2nd Best Commercial AVSA Collection** with **'Frosted Denim'**, a Lyndon Lyons miniature cultivar that looks to be unbeatable, producing a huge quantity of light blue blooms with strong white edges atop symmetrical, small foliage. **'Ness' Angel Babe'** and **'Rob's Tippy Toe'**, a very tiny-growing miniature with purple edged, white blooms, completed her collection.

DISPLAY TABLES AND NEW INTRODUCTIONS

Both **Lyndon Lyons Greenhouses** and **Rob's Mini-ollets** are to be commended for putting together display tables. Coming all the way from New York state with such perfect specimens, and then winning first and second-best display tables, respectively, gives evidence to their abilities as showmen and their dedication to AVSA. May I also add how good it was to see a display table by Lyon's? It is only when plants are viewed collectively can a hybridizer/grower/exhibitor's efforts be truly appreciated and recognized. Thanks, Sidney! And Rob, thanks for doing it year after year after year!

The **Best New Introduction** was **'Ms. Smartypants'**, grown by **Sidney Sorano**. Although I cannot confirm this, it was reported to be another sport of their renowned cultivar **'Irish Flirt'**. It is a small-growing plant with ruffled, medium green foliage topped by the most delightful blooms of white, pink and green, melting together into an almost chimeral pattern of striking, unusual and ethereal beauty.

Because of the timing of convention and the need to get this column to Beaumont for printing, I am unable to describe the rest of the new introductions on Sidney's table, or the beauties on Rob's. I'll begin the next column with a discussion of these plants.

LOOKING AHEAD TO HOUSTON

One thing is certain after having seen the past few convention shows: miniatures and semiminatures make participation in convention shows easy! They travel well, you can take several plants with you, and they don't suffer much from shock. Begin making plans now to attend the convention in the Lone Star State, April 3 - 12, 1999. And start growing those small ones to exhibit!



August 6-8 - WISCONSIN

'Art en Fleurs'
Milwaukee Art Museum
750 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr., Milwaukee, WI
Info: Sarah Gartner (414) 224 - 3843

August 7 - OREGON

Heart of the Valley AVS Sale
Water Tower Mall at Johns Landing
5331 SW Macadam Ave., Portland, OR
Hours: 10am - 6pm
Info: Chris Duvendack (503) 697-7373

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

Sometimes the questions I receive seem to come in clusters of related topics. In this month's column, we start with some questions regarding a popular, but poorly developed flower type, the reverse fantasy. Then we have a series of questions regarding raspberry-edged flowers. I think you'll find a few ideas for some very new violets suggested from these questions.

Q: *A leaf cutting of 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot' which is a dark blue semidouble with white fantasy markings (reverse fantasy) appears to have sported to a white/cream bloom with a pink blush. Is it normal for reverse fantasy plants to sport like this?*

A: I have not personally seen this type of sport for a reverse-fantasy plant, but given the tendency of fantasy plants to sport in general, I'm not surprised to hear about it. A quick post to the Gesneriophiles electronic mail group produced several responses from growers who have also had this happen. It would appear that reverse fantasy, as well as normal dot fantasy, can produce sports of the "spot" color and lose the background color all together.

Q: *How can reverse fantasy plants in pink with white markings be produced?*

A: I believe that we used to have plants of this type as I have seen advertisements for them in very old issues of the *African Violet Magazine*. However, if we have lost these plants, new reverse-fantasy plants in pink or red should be easy to produce. Cross a reverse-fantasy plant such as 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot' to a strong-growing pink or red. The first generation (F1) should have 50% reverse-fantasy plants in blue shades. Backcross the best F1 reverse-fantasy offspring to the pink parent. About 13% of the offspring will be pink/red shades with the white fantasy markings.

The same result can be achieved by crossing the two

best F1 offspring together or self-pollinating a single F1 offspring. In this case, about 19% of the offspring should be reverse-fantasy plants in pink or red shades.

If you want to create something really new and different, try crossing a reverse-fantasy plant to a coral or coral-red plant. Backcrossing the F1 to the coral-colored parent should produce a small number (less than 5%) of reverse-fantasy plants in coral-red or coral-red shades. These should be very interesting plants in a new color combination! Good Luck!

Q: *I like the raspberry edge of 'Grandmaster' but find the blue color too dark to contrast well with the edging. Would crossing this plant with a double white dilute the blue color and keep the raspberry edge?*

A: Yes, a cross with a double white might dilute the blue color in the offspring, but it might not. White-flowered plants are unable to express any color, but they can still carry the genes for dark shades which would defeat the purpose of your cross. I'd suggest crossing 'Grandmaster' to a very pale double-pink or blue-flowered plant. These plants will carry the dominant intensity gene which will dilute the color of the flowers in the offspring. Raspberry edges are a genetic dominant, so at least 50% of the offspring should still have this trait. Your final result should be some offspring with raspberry edges in a much lighter shade of blue than 'Grandmaster'.

Q: *Why do some raspberry-edge plants have a speckling of color across the bloom and others do not?*

A: While the raspberry edge is a dominant genetic trait, the speckling factor appears to be a separate genetic factor. As you have observed, some raspberry-edge plants have the speckling while others do not. I suspect that speckling is a separate genetic dominant that can only be expressed in the presence of the raspberry-edge gene. If you use a

parent that has both raspberry edges and speckling, you should get some offspring with both traits. If both parents have the two traits, then a very high percentage of the offspring should inherit both traits.

Q: *Could reverse fantasy and raspberry edges be combined into the same flower?*

A: I haven't seen a flower of this type, but I don't see why it couldn't be done. Try crossing a reverse-fantasy plant with a plant that has strong raspberry edges. About 25% of the offspring should have both traits in combination. This would be a real "Fourth of July" plant in that the flowers should be blue with white-fantasy markings surrounded by a red-raspberry edge. Be sure to send me a leaf!

Q: *I would like to use 'Irish Flirt' in hybrid crosses, but I can't seem to find any stamens or pistils in the flowers. Can 'Irish Flirt' still be used as a parent?*

A: To be used as a parent in a cross, the flowers must have either stamens to produce pollen or a functional pistil. Many full-double flowers are difficult to use because the mutations that produce the extra petals do so by converting the stamens and pistils into petals. Plants with green flowers, such as 'Irish Flirt', also have low fertility because the green color mutation keeps all the floral parts "leaf-like" and sexually immature. The combination of double petals and green color may have made 'Irish Flirt' essentially sterile.

About the only thing I can recommend is to keep examining the flowers to see if one can be found with a functional stamen or pistil. The side flowers on a bloom stalk are often less developed and may give you a chance for a fertile bloom. You might also check on plants grown under the cultural conditions of different people. Sometimes the cultural environment of the plant will affect the amount of doubleness in a flower, allowing some flowers to develop their sexual parts and fertility.



AVSA Auction Was A Great Success!

A very sincere thanks to everyone who donated and bid on items for our 1st annual AVSA luncheon auction. Because of your tremendous support, we made \$1,247 for the general AVSA convention fund.

These donors deserve special recognition:

Commercials: Tinari Greenhouses, The Violet Showroom, Travis' Violets, Herbal Gardens Ceramics, Violet House, Belisle's Violet House and Alannah's African Violets.

Affiliates and organizations: California Convention Committee, Missouri Valley African Violet Council, San Joaquin AVS, the Omaha Convention 2000 Committee, and the Stampede City AVS of Calgary, Canada.

Individuals: Carol Reynolds, Edna Rourke, Margaret Jarrett, Dale Martens, Lynn Lombard, Helen Magill, Olivette Hall, Ingrid Nelson, Barbara Elkin, Annemarie Beardsley, Gabriela Liberty, Jann Selleck, Sandy Officer, Mary Woo, Margaret Easches, Pat

Richards, Winston Goretsky, Fran Traylor, Ann Miller and Mary Ann Switzer

To all winning bidders: Thank you very much for your very kind support. Without your generosity and enthusiasm this auction would not have been possible.

To the auction staff: All my gratitude for pulling it all together. **Anna Jean and George Landgren, Helen and Warren Barrett, Steve Covolo, Sue Hill, Carol Allegretti, Mona Donnell, Jeanne Cotten, Sue Knobbe, Ruby Cox, Dale Martens, Will Dennis, Grace McCurnin, and Jenny Daugereau.** Huge thanks to **John Carter** for taking so much time to help input the information into the computer and keep track of auction bids. And finally, to our auctioneer extraordinaire, **Jack Wilson.**

Information about next year's auction will appear in upcoming issues of the African Violet Magazine, so keep an eye out for great auction items for Houston in 1999!

"Thanks" can never be said or heard enough, but for what it's worth ... THANKS TO EVERYONE!



South

THE WAY DOWN Club

by Don Geiss • Fredric, MI and Combes, TX

It is far from being the largest African violet club in the United States, and in all probability not the smallest. It does, however, have some distinctive features that can be matched by very few AV clubs in the nation.

The Valley African Violet Society is arguably the southern-most club in the continental U.S. At first glance, that geographical claim might mean little, but weather observers will point out that it remains warm and often downright hot throughout the year.

In the middle of what the remainder of the U.S. considers winter, temperatures can reach into the 90-degree mark on some days. During a major share of the cold season elsewhere, the Lower Rio Grande Valley sees temperatures at 70 degrees and often above. There are colder days in the 60's and rarely in the 50's, but not often.

The extremely high end of the scale, 90 degrees, can create special problems. As an example, not long ago the club held its annual show and sale. Many clubs in more northerly climates would probably not dream of holding a show-sale during the first few days of March.

On the day of the event, the temperature reached 90 degrees. Fortunately, it was comfortable in the McAllen International Museum where the show was held. At day's end, a special problem confronted the members. The question surely in each person's mind had to have been how much of the heat that had accumulated inside the vehicles could the violets tolerate.

It was probably well over 100 degrees inside the cars and vans. We had never personally faced the question of what traumatic effect a quick change of temperature from the museum showroom to the vehicles might have on the plants. Not taking a chance, we set our plants in the shade, started the car and turned on the air conditioning. Once the interior had cooled, the plants were transferred.

The area weather is ruled by storms wheeling across Mexico from the Pacific Ocean or those rolling around from the Gulf of Mexico. The rains, however, are very few; thus Mother Nature allows desert fauna to grow. The dedicated members of the club must solve many problems in order to successfully raise plants.

Where do they place violets in the home to get enough light and yet avoid the scalding rays of the sun? If one coyly suggests using artificial lights, the question becomes how much more heat is added to the room. Oh! Well! They do have air conditioning as a living requirement anyway, the casual observer might remark. Has anyone thought of how much more these folks might pay in electrical bills to offset the heat generated by light fixtures?

Even with the use of natural light, the temperature and resultant need for air conditioning creates special problems of humidity.

Despite the unique problems, the members of the Valley AV Society have as much, or more, enthusiasm as club members elsewhere in the country. They bring fresh leaves to pass around at the monthly meetings in member's homes.

They publish an annual booklet containing pertinent club information as well as suggestions on raising plants, and an informational sheet containing instructions for raising plants is also produced as a hand out for would-be African violet lovers.

Each member has what is called a "project plant". It is an identical starter variety. All project plants are entered in what is called a "project class". The best-looking specimen is then given an award.

Each meeting has a theme and a program, whether it be a slide series, speaker, or demonstration. Annually they handle a public workshop as well as the show-sale.

Perhaps the most unusual feature is that many of the members are called "Winter Texans". They drive from the colder climates in Minnesota, Michigan, Wyoming, Missouri, and Maine to spend the winter in the Valley. Most remarkable is that these folks willingly face the difficulties in transporting African violets from their homes in the north to their second homes in southern Texas. They have a love of the plants to such a degree that they nurse them through the traumatic trip just to pursue the delightful hobby.

Yes! The Valley African Violet Society does have a number of unique features, but members do have that special caring for their plants in common with members in all AV clubs.

Care to come on down to the Rio Grande Valley to spend a few days, or the winter? Give one of the club members a call, and there is no doubt of an invitation to the next meeting!

BASIC CARE AND CULTURE OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

By Rena Douglas
Australia



If we bear in mind that African violets like living conditions very similar to those which we enjoy most, then we are well on the way to growing and flowering them successfully. We all need water and food to survive, and to thrive we need warmth, light and comfortable living conditions - and so do our African violets.

1. Light - Bright light is essential for producing flowers, but not direct sunlight. Use a fine curtain or tissue paper to filter the sunlight. If you are growing your plant in natural light, check that it is getting enough light by holding your hand in front of the spot where your plant will be sitting. If a good shadow is cast, then there is sufficient light. You may have to try a number of places around the house before finding the ideal position, but it is well worthwhile persevering. Generally speaking, if a plant is more than about three feet from a window it will not flower well, if at all. The direction in which the window faces can affect the result, but the shadow test will give a better idea of how good the position is. Do turn plants regularly to encourage symmetrical growth - a quarter turn every day or so should be enough. Another thing to remember is that as well as good light, African violets need an eight-hour period of darkness in every twenty-four hours.

2. Water - There is a well-known saying in AV circles that more plants die from overwatering than from any other problem. Water according to the needs of the plant. Feel the potting mix, and when it seems only slightly damp, then is the time to water. Do not leave the plant sitting in water - African violets hate wet feet! Use wick-watering as the easiest watering system.

3. Food - Regular feeding produces good results. Use less fertilizer in winter, and be sure to avoid chemical build-up

on the pots (seen as an orange crust on the rim of the pot) by flushing with plain water once a month.

4. Warmth - Ideally the temperature range enjoyed by African violets goes from about 65°F to 75°F. Above and below these temperatures they will survive, but not really flourish. Avoid draughts - it's great to use a fan for either heating or cooling, but remember to direct it at the ceiling or a wall rather than straight at the violets.

5. Potting Mix - Use special African violet mix. It is designed to be light and airy and drain freely, yet have sufficient moisture-holding ability to keep the plant well supplied with water. Repot regularly - twice a year, if possible, into shallow pots.

6. Cleanliness - Keep the leaves clean by brushing regularly with a soft brush, and wash with tepid water from time to time by holding the plant at an angle under a gently running tap and washing each leaf. Be sure to blot off the moisture, particularly if any water gets into the center. Use tissues or toilet paper for this. Always use clean tools and pots when grooming and repotting. Regular grooming and removal of dead leaves and flowers will all aid good health.

If all this seems a bit much, I'm sure you will see the similarity to our own requirements, and the end result of beautiful, flowering African violets makes it all worthwhile.

Good Growing!

*Reprinted with permission from the
Early Morn AV Group Newsletter, Australia*

Soil Mealy Bugs

by Barb Pershing • Cedar falls, IA

If you haven't had them, you probably will at some time in your growing of African violets.

Symptoms: poor growth and yellowed leaves caused by lack of a healthy root system (the damaged roots can't take up necessary nutrients), wilted and dying leaves, (outer rows of leaves die first), and failure to bloom.

If a plant has just become infested when you get it, it may be as long as six months before the plant shows any sign of stress from the effects of mealy bugs working on the root system. Soil mealy bugs are more mobile than we may think. If you find them in one pot, you must assume that they have travelled to all pots on the same tray/mat.

Monitor your plants by occasionally unpotting one of the group and inspecting for signs of bugs. If you have mealy bugs, you will find white powdery areas in the soil, often at the soil line and on the stem, right at the soil line. If the mealies have been working on the plant for awhile, the roots will be brown and will eventually be dead. The mealies look like small grains of perlite. If you see a suspicious shiny white oval object in the soil, touch it with the tip of a pencil. If it moves - mealy bug!

In order to cut down on the risk of soil-dwelling pests such as soil mealy bugs, when you bring new plants into your collection, it is recommended that you cut off and discard the roots, treat the crown in a mild bleach solution, and reroot the crown in fresh soil and a clean pot. This is

rather drastic, but it will cut down on the isolation period and hopefully will eliminate the worry of introducing unwanted pests into your collection.

Using the systemic, Marathon, is a precaution against an infestation of Mealy bugs. Marathon, or any other systemic must be repeated in 4 to 6 weeks. Systemics may eradicate a heavy infestation of mealy bugs but should provide a measure of protection against one occurring.

Preventative measures:

1. Discard plant if badly infected. Take a leaf, soak it in mild bleach water; start a new plant.
2. Wash hands, work surface and tools between handling each plant; keep a bucket of soapy, mild bleach water to dip hands and tools between plants.
3. Use layers of newspaper on potting tray; wrap and discard used soil for each plant.
4. Wash hands before scooping soil out of the storage container and don't hold plant over soil bucket.
5. Never reuse a pot without soaking it in a hot soapy bleach solution.

Prevention is a lot easier and less stressful than cleaning up an infestation in your collection. I know from experience!

Reprinted with permission from *The 'Bloomin' Violet*, publication of the Cedar Valley AVC, Cedar falls, IA

Signs of Trouble,

When looking at African violet plants there are a number of signs that require another look.

Wilted plants

If plant is dry, it needs water. If wet wilting is the problem it is probably due to poor drainage and rotting or other root problems. Pull plant out of pot and look at roots.

If roots are brown or black and mushy, it is root rot caused by over-watering, over-fertilizing or fertilizing when the plant was dry, compacted soil or poor drainage.

If the roots are covered with beads and knots it's nematodes. Throw plant away, wash hands carefully, and check and quarantine surrounding plants.

If there are white rice-like grains in the soil or between the soil ball and the inside of the pot it is soil mealy bugs.

Plants with dusty looking centers

These might be due to over-watering or over-fertilizing. Is the plant too wet? Is it too cold? Was the fertilizer

measured carefully?

White fluff or specks on leaves

They may be pieces of fluff or they may be foliar mealy bugs. Look more carefully and check the undersides of the leaves and the neighboring plants.

Spilled pollen on blossoms

Check neighboring plants; if their blossoms are spilling pollen too, the problem may be thrips.

Rusty looking leaves

These may indicate mites, especially spider mites.

Spots on leaves

These may be due to water, sunburn, or fertilizer residue.

Tight, hard centers

These could be due to over-fertilization or cyclamen mites.

AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges



Physan – One More Time

by Dorothy Schroeder

Physan keeps the algae problem down in my wick-watering containers. Physan 20® is a disinfectant and algicide. When you read the label on the bottle it does not say anything about using Physan for plants. I don't know who discovered or started using it for plants, but I first heard about it at one of our club meetings and tried using it. The label on the bottle tells about its use in hospitals for cleaning floors, counters, tables, and many other uses to combat bacteria. It is used in households for the same purpose and for sanitizing food processing equipment. It is also used in swimming pools for algae control.

To prevent algae, mix 1/4 to 1/2 tsp. to either a gallon of plain water or mix it in with your fertilizer. Physan will prevent algae from forming on matting, trays, or water reservoirs. When I replace the water in the reservoir container, I mix the Physan and fertilizer together.

Damping off is controlled by spraying weekly with a solution of 2 tsp. to a gallon of water.

The other day I heard that you can use Physan for cut blossoms, to keep them fresh longer. Use 1 tsp. to a gallon of water. I haven't tried this yet. It would be great for those doing flower arranging, especially when you don't have enough blossoms to replace the next day at the shows.

Don't forget that it disinfects your flower pots and whatever tools you may use. Eight ounces of Physan 20 is about \$4.00, goes a long way and does the job.

I hope this explains its use a little more thoroughly. You will just have to try and experiment with your own growing conditions to see what works best for you.

*Reprinted from African Violet Leaves
publication of the Illinois African Violet Society*



Thrips

by Barbara Goodsell • Glenview, IL

Where do thrips come from? When you buy a new plant, it is possible that it has thrips. Therefore, you should keep all new plants in isolation for about six weeks or more, if possible. If you are an outdoor gardener, you can bring them in on your clothes, so change your clothes and wash your hands before you start working with your plants. If you are a pet owner, thrips can hop on your pet for a ride into your house. If you exhibit, it's more than likely you will come home with thrips.

How can you tell if you have thrips? If you notice spilled pollen on your blossoms (a fine, white powder), thrips are possible. However, Optimara® and Rhapsodie® violets are known as pollen spillers. If your blossoms become streaked and spotted, this is another sign of infestation. They also attack the leaves. You can blow into the flower and see the thrips moving around.

How can you get rid of thrips? You can spray or rinse your entire plant with warm water and soap, such as Palmolive®, Joy®, etc. Horticultural oil and dishwashing soap, used as a sticker, mixed with hot water and sprayed on plants and soil is of great help. Let your plants dry off at room temperature before placing them in the window or on your plant stand.

The best thing that I have found in preventing any infestation of thrips is to take the plant out of its pot, wash all the soil off the roots, repot in a new pot with fresh soil to

which you have added 1/2 to 1 teaspoon of systemic insecticide granules. I use Science® brand. Ferti-Lome® Systemic Granules is another brand that I buy. The systemic granules are added to the pot every 6 to 8 weeks.

How are insects killed using systemic granules? The systemic insecticide enters a plant through its roots (systemic action) and is then moved through natural growth and sap flow. Working from inside the plant, the insecticide kills sucking insects that feed on the plant.

What are thrips? Thrips are small insects with rasping-sucking mouth parts, belonging to the order Thysanoptera, which means "bristle wings". They are slender, rarely as long as one eighth inch, and agile. They come in many colors, but I've only seen white, brown, and orange thrips. They feed on all plant parts (not just the blossoms) and are a serious problem to many outdoor crops as well as a problem in greenhouses. Thrips can hop from plant to plant. The injury from thrips is sometimes called "white blast," as the surface of the blooms and leaves become whitened and flecked; then the tips wither, curl up, and die. That is a serious infestation, and hopefully you will catch this problem before the plant reaches the death stage.

*Reprinted with permission from African Violet Leaves,
publication of the Illinois AVS, Inc.*

"And the winners are..."



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

“AVC OF GREATER ATLANTA, GA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Candy Swirls, Favorite Child, Arapahoe, **Jeannette Wallace**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Dolled Up, Snuggles Red Honey; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Light Prince', **Lois Duvall**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Florida Belle; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sarah McGaha**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Kay Redhorse**.

AVS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, MO - Winners: Best Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Twinkle Pink, Ness' Red Flash; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Rob's Willy Nilly; Best Standard: Ultra Violet Twinkle; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pink Puff; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sue Hill**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Ness' Twinkle Pink, Texas Teen, **Pat Richards**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Lydia Walker**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana', **Rick Milligan**. Best Design, **Marsha Loveland**. Design Sweepstakes, **Marian Schaaf**.

AVS OF GREATER TULSA, OK - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Louise Constant, Namely Nancy, Wrangler's Pink Patches; Best Standard: Namely Nancy, **Melvine List**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rapid Transit, Vintage Wine, Apache Diamond, **Shirley Lumpkin**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Ness' Satin Rose, Ness' Red Express; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Dean's Sweetheart; Best Miniature: Persian Prince; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Juanita Carpenter**. Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Best Gesneriad, *xCodonanthus* 'Tambourine', **Mary E. Hill**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Edna R. McCawley**. Best Design, **Jeanne Cotten**. Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Sutton**.

AVS OF PENSACOLA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Playful Rainbow, Marching Band,

Royal Commotion; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's April Storm, Cupid's Kiss, Dangerous, **George Starr**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Handmade, Dangerous, **Estelle Starr**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Granger's Wonderland; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Kurtz**. Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Cheyenne; Best Miniature: Optimara Little White Clouds; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Louise Merritt**. Best Trailer: Pixie Pink, **Jean Jones**.

ALPHA AVS OF DALLAS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Apache Diamond, Double Trouble; Best Standard: Annabelle, **William Suggs**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Diamond, Lela Marie, Southern Beauty; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', **Grace Davis**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Hallucination, Rob's Boondoggle; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Arturo Lopez**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Texas Teen, Red Bandito, **Blanca Fuster**. Best Miniature: Dean's Love Bug; Best species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Janice Davidson**.

BATON ROUGE AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Oklahoma, Optimara Alaska, Optimara Leonardo Davinci, **Ruth Jones**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Bogeyman, Red Bandito; Best in Show/Best Standard: Lela Marie; Best Semiminiature: Red Bandito; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Trailer: Cirelda; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fran Spear**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Sara Beth', **Shirley Gomez**. Best Design, **Nancy David**. Design Sweepstakes, **Sallie Barlow**.

CORPUS CHRISTIE AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA

Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Wisteria, Rodeo Showgirl, **Kay Bircher**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Marion's Enchanted Trail, Milky Way Trail, Cirelda, **Virginia Thompson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Mini Papa, Ness' Satin Rose, Red Bandito; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo; Best Semiminiature: Pink Skies; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Story Talk', **Marjorie Bullard**. Best Standard: Maverick's Faded Jeans, **Liz Riggle**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Kimi Bircher**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sarah Steinsland**.

THE DELAWARE AVS, DE - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Party Print, Victorian Flirt; Best in Show/Best Standard: Party Print; Best Miniature: Rob's Willy Nilly; Best species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* *Punter*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bessie Pyle**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, **Barbara LaFashia**. Best Trailer: Santa Fe Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee'; Best Design, **Andrea Pirone**. Design Sweepstakes, **Carol Callaghan**.

DIXIE AVS, NC - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Ferrari, Party Print, Kathe Denise; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Roger Peeler**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Dean's Aquarius, Rob's Denim Demon, **Barbara & George McDonald**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Vanilla Pink; Cherry Glo, Persian Prince, **John Nabors**. Best Standard: Luxury Liner, **W. E. Clark**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* *Punter* #7, **Linda Abplanalp**. Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail, **Ramona Hodges**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Mary Ann', **Phyllis King**. Best Design, **Joyce Stenger**. Design Sweepstakes, **Dee Short**.

FANCY BLOOMERS AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Desir, Bertha, Dumplin'; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cupid's Kiss, Shy Blue, Sassy Sister; Best in Show/Best Standard: Sonoma Ringo; Best Trailer: Sweet Amy Sue, **Byron Borck**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Optimara Leonardo Davinci, Optimara Monet; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee', **Heath Borck**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hippity Hop, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Pink Puff; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Miniature: Everdina; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Heather Borck**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Rebecca Jackson**.

FIRST AVS OF DENTON, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Favorite Child, Pride of Enterprise; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii*, **Richard Nicholas**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi Brooke, Southern Beauty, Pink Confession, **Phyllis Reuss**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*;

Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Eunice Curry**. Best Semiminiature: Dean's Arctic Frost; Best Miniature: Mini Mam; Best Design, **Anne Nicholas**.

FIRST AUSTIN AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Melodie Kimi, Rodeo Country, Lady Blue; Best Trailer: Brazos Belle; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Texas Hot Chili'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Delores Gibbs**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Snuggles Blue Pearl, Rob's Whippoorwill; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Standard: Kiwi Dazzler; Best Miniature: Texas Space Dust; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, **Jeannette Pursley**. Design Sweepstakes: **Joyce Kimbro**.

FIRST LAKELAND AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Candy Pink, Apache Land, Pensi Classic; Best Standard: Ness' Candy Pink, **Barbara Courson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Candy Pink, Optimara South Dakota, Rita Hilton; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Precious Pink; Best Trailer: Pixie Runaround; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marvin Nester**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Hector, Snuggles Red Honey, **Eryth Hendershot**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Hector; Best Miniature: Grape Treat, **Christel Collier**. Best species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, **Lynne Lock**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Susie', **Jenne Crum**. Best Design, **Mary Jane Dilozenzo**. Design Sweepstakes, **Stephen Jew**.

FORT WORTH AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vintage Wine, Bertha, Mary Craig; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mary Craig; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Virginia Linson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun Heritage, Amazing Grace, Optimara Leonardo Davinci; Best Miniature: Lemon Tart; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Alex Early**. Best Semiminiature: Hot Date, **Tressie Barker**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Checkerboard', **Dorothy McCarty**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Belinda Woodruff**.

JEFFERSON AV ASSOCIATION, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Red Robe, Super Duper; Best Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Moonstone, Optimara Little Pearl, Optimara Rose Quartz; Best in Show: Tomahawk; Best Semiminiature: Lavender Rage; Best Miniature: Petite Tart; Best Trailer: Honey Bun Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gail Borne**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Marshlands, Fantasy Splendor, Nortex's Hallmark Haven, **Barbara Radecker**. Best Gesneriad: *xCodonanthus* 'Aurora', **Celia Dazet**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Dot Benge**.

LAKES AREA VIOLET GROWERS, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara New Mexico, Optimara Van Gogh, King's Treasure; Horticulture

Sweepstakes, **Ken Rein**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Ness' Midnight Fantasy, Futuristic, **Longine Beck**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Aztec, Optimara Little Blackfoot, Rob's Heat Wave; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Aztec; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe, **Kathy Lahti**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Elizabeth Frigstad**. Best Standard: Ness' Orange Pekoe, **Jean Ness**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha*; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea sanguinea*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jude Neumann**.

MAGIC KNIGHT AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Bertha, Something Special; Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii*, **Steven Spachek**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Little Pro, Spin-out; Best Semiminiature: Ken; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Kunzite, Optimara Little Tourmaline, Optimara Little Apatite; Best Miniature: Planet Kid, **Bill Johnson**. Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia Sigi Falls*, **Cathy Baumgardner**. Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Dee Johnson**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Alma Hummer**.

MONTGOMERY AVS, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Kathe Denise, Chiffon Prince; Best in Show/Best Standard: Kathe Denise, **Archie Boyd**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Ocean Eyes, Picasso, **Barbara Sanderson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Precious Pink, Pink Skies; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Dean's Ivory Lace; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley', **Peg Phythyon**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Von's Cherub, Rob's Scooter, Irish Flirt; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Donna Ferguson**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Beverly Jarman**.

MOONLIGHT AVS OF FORT WORTH, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, *Saintpaulia rupicola*, *Saintpaulia confusa*; Best in Show/Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **Velma Lewis**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary Craig, Bertha, Apache Freedom; Best Standard: Mary Craig; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Kalendar Prince'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mural Fort**. Best Semiminiature: Diana; Best Miniature: Seedling 1101, **Kyle Coleman**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Bonnie Harris**.

POMONA VALLEY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Ferrari, Bertha, Ruffled Skies; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bogeyman, California Sunset, Irish Flirt; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: California Sunset; Best Standard: Ruffled Skies, **Dorothy Kosowsky**.

Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gini McCanne**. Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Iris Keating**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Joker', **Nancy Di Paola**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Vinciguerra**.

SOUTH COAST AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary D, Kiwi Dazzler, Sansoucy' Coco; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mary D; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marilee Beam**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Sue Arakaki**. Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Design, **Jacquie Eisenhut**. Best Trailer: Cherokee Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* lite, **Hans Inpijn**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Golden Dragon', **Jim Turner**.

SPRING BRANCH AVC, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: First Houston, Happy Chris, Apache Victory; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lenora Munk**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Country, Rodeo Showgirl, Apache Victory; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Friendship, **J. C. Munk**. Best Semiminiature: Teen Thunder; Best Trailer: Cirelda, **Judith Carter**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Texas Hot Chili', **Dale Martens**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Goeke**.

TOP CHOICE AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Joelle, Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Red Robe; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Dean's Legacy, Rob's Boondoggle; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Standard: Joelle; Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Flora Nugent**. Best Trailer: Champagne Pink; Best Design, **Vivian Kennedy**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia pusilla*, **Annette Westbrook**. Design Sweepstakes, **Ruby Parker**.

UPPER PINELLAS AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Jealous Heart, Magic, Tomahawk; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Little Pro, Rob's Boondoggle; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ness' Coral Luster; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Miniature: Knight Magic; Best Trailer: Rob's Miriwinini; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #0; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Lavender Silk, Deep Dark Secret, Ultra Violet Flash, **Peggy Walker**.

WICHITA AV STUDY CLUB, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Picotee Petticoat, Paumanok; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Warpath; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Sno Fun; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Helen Barrett**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Blueberry Patches, Ness' Sno Fun, Rob's Scooter, **Warren Barrett**. Best Miniature: Orchard's Night Light, **Clarice Byers**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Smith**. Best Gesneriad: *Trichantha*, **Bernice Sidebottom**.



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

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"I plunked it next to the violets and followed the light and fertilizing schedule for showing violets," said **Diana Thran**, the winner of the Best Other Gesneriad award, about her very well-grown *Petrocosmea nervosa*.

She went on to say that she received the plant as a baby about 18 or 24 months ago. Initially she put it in a terrarium environment but saw it was getting insufficient light. She then decided to put it on a wicking system in a tray under the lights along with her violets. Diana cautions people to throw away the old water each month so the fertilizer won't concentrate. She also mists with distilled water. Her soil mix consists of 50% Supersoil and 50% perlite/vermiculite. Diana wears a dust mask and sifts out the fine powder in the smaller-sized perlite. She prefers small perlite rather than the larger chunks.

Diana was preparing her violets for the national show. Since the *Petrocosmea nervosa* was living with the violets, it received identical care. About 12 weeks before the show Diana began using Schultz's Superbloom fertilizer at the rate of 1/4 teaspoon per gallon. In addition, she increased her lights according to the schedule for showing violets. This brought the *Petrocosmea* into excellent show condition. This was Diana's very first entry in a national convention, and we congratulate her on this exciting win!

I must add my caution. Do not attempt to treat miniature sinningias or species sinningias like violets in preparing them for shows. I had 3 trays of dead sinningias due to what I now feel was a combination of increased light and high-bloom fertilizers.

"It grows in an atrium in natural light. I take no credit for this plant. It's the variety," insists **Lynn Lombard** about *Columnnea* 'Julia', the strikingly beautiful winner of the commercial Best Other Gesneriad award. One can tell this plant is quite happy in her home. She fertilizes it from the top and lets the water run through the plant. Lynn alternates fertilizers, using about ten to twelve varieties. She runs clear water through it once in a while to leach out the salts. *Columnnea* 'Julia' has small, deep green, shiny

leaves averaging about 1 to 1-1/2 inches long. The crimson red blossoms are about 2-1/2 inches long and have a glistening shine to them. I counted as many as 17 blossoms on one stem. Lyndon Lyon's Greenhouses were selling these plants in the sales room.

"It's about seven years old, and this is the first time it's bloomed," says **Jeani Hatfield**, grower of probably the most photographed entry at the show, *Columnnea* 'Broget's Stavenger.' I couldn't measure it accurately, but I'd say the variegated strands of leaves must have been four to five feet long with hundreds of bright orange blossoms. Jeani grows it in a 10-inch pot, using Canadian sphagnum peat, vermiculite and perlite. She uses Plant Marvel at the rate of 1/4 teaspoon per gallon. She has a drip line going into the pot. It lives in a 32' x 70' greenhouse along with about one hundred other hanging baskets. Jeani is no longer a commercial grower but continues to enjoy her plants as a hobbyist.

This year's convention had some really beautiful and well-grown gesneriads. **Barbara Elkin** won Second Best Other Gesneriad with a beautifully variegated *Columnnea* 'Light Prince.' Barbara also won Best Tuberous Rooted with *Sinningia* 'Gabriel's Trumpet.' I was pleased to win Best Miniature Other Gesneriad with my tiny *Sinningia pusilla*, which was grown on a wicking system using New Zealand sphagnum moss. **Jim Turner** had several well-grown *Streptocarpus* plants in pan pots, many of them hybridized by Ralph "Rob" Robinson. The advantage of using pan pots is that the plant has less of a tendency to fall over as it gets larger. I'm going to switch to that method with my larger *Streptocarpus* plants.

Rob Robinson (a very happy newlywed!) gave an excellent presentation on *Streptocarpus*. He has hybridized for shorter blossom stems which results in an excellent bouquet of blossoms, and the blossoms won't be hitting the light tubes.

I counted the gesneriad entries, and there were approximately 76 entered! An enthusiastic "Thank You" goes to the Californians who put together such a wonderful convention!

1998 AVSA AWARDS

Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership

To: Iris Keating • Claremont, California

This year the Hudson Memorial Award for affiliate Leadership is presented to Iris Keating. She has been a member of the Pomona Valley African Violet Society for 22 years. She has served this society as secretary, vice-president, and president and has been the corresponding secretary and newsletter editor since 1991.

Iris has served many times as show chairman, staging chairman, show schedule chairman and classification chairman. She also gives many programs on trailers, shallow potting, growing and grooming for show, how to judge your own plants and the other gesneriads.

Mrs. Keating is also a charter member of the Foothill African Violet Society, a member of the African Violet Council of Southern California and the AVSA Judges' Council of Southern California.

Iris is a life member of AVSA and a senior judge. She has also served on the AVSA Board of Directors.

Honorary One-Year Membership Award

To: Mary Lou Harden • Seffner, Florida

The AVSA presents Mary Lou Harden with an Honorary One-Year Membership Award for serving as Convention Chairman at the 1997 St. Pete Beach Convention.

Mary Lou has been a member of AVSA for 19 years. She is a life member and a senior judge.

Locally, she is a member and past president of the Tampa African Violet Society. She is also a member and past president of the African Violet Council of Florida and a life member of Dixie African Violet Society.

Honorary One-Year Membership Award

To: Jo Anne Martinez • Tampa, Florida

The AVSA honors Jo Anne Martinez with an Honorary One-Year Membership Award for serving as Convention Show Chairman at the 1997 St. Pete Beach Convention.

Jo Anne has been a member of AVSA since 1980. She is a life member and an advanced judge.

On the local level Jo Anne is a member and past president of the Tampa African Violet Society, is president of the African Violet Council of Florida and a life member of Dixie African Violet Society.

Honorary One-Year Membership Award

To: James Smith • Dunedin, Florida

The AVSA acknowledges James Smith with an Honorary One-Year Membership Award for the eight years he authored and co-authored the column "Question Box" in the *African Violet Magazine*.

Mr. Smith is a long-time member of AVSA, a senior judge and teacher.

Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award

To: Rocky Mountain African Violet Council
Nederland, Colorado

For the second consecutive year, the Tinari Membership Award for the most new AVSA individual memberships during the year 1997 goes to Rocky Mountain African Violet Council. They had 26 new members and should be very proud of their accomplishment.

THE EYES OF TEXAS ARE UPON US!



Houston, 1999, should be a very large convention, and I'd like to fill all those "10-gallon hats" full of award money for the exhibitors. Please send your awards in by September 30, 1998 so that they may be published in the January issue of the *African Violet Magazine* with all of the other details of the Houston, Texas Convention.

Special requests are assigned, based on the order of receipt. Also please note from the Sacramento Convention that the AVSA now gives cash awards for all the top winners in amateur, design and commercial classes.

Cash donations must be paid in U.S. funds by check or money order made payable to AVSA Convention. Appropriate items other than cash (i.e. silver, rosettes) will be accepted. However, please do not send gift certificates. When sending an award, please include the following information:

- Donor or Name of Award

- Address of Contact Person
- Amount of award or other appropriate item
- Request for specific class or section, if available (amateur, design, commercial horticulture)

Cash awards which cannot be awarded because there are no qualified entries (i.e. no entry for specific cultivar awards) are given to AVSA. Undesignated awards assigned to a class which subsequently has no blue ribbon entries are reassigned as needed. Awards for the best plant of a specific hybridizer or series, or awards which would complicate judging, will not be accepted. All awards must be sent to the Awards Chairman.

**Mail your awards today for the
Houston Convention and Show in 1999 to:**

Linda Golubski

1416 A Street • Blue Springs, MO 64015

Phone: (816) 229-2051

Showcase

Delft Imperial

Exhibited by:
Gladys Cartwright
Best Vintage Violet
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky



Texas Space Dust

Exhibited by:
Bev Promersberger
Best Miniature
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky





Sockeye

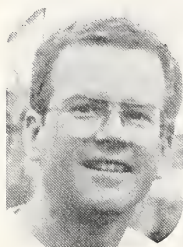
Exhibited by:
Dorothy Kosowsky
Hybridized by:
K. Stork
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky



Lyon's June Bug

Exhibited by:
Lyn Sweeney
Blue Ribbon
Photo Credit:
Benjamin W. Nutter

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

Q: Will you tell me the difference between "Texas Style" and other types of growing systems? Several of them look the same to me.

A: "Texas Style" is a technique of planting and growing that is based on the habitat in which many tropicals are found. On the limestone shale are depressions and cavities that catch decaying leaves, sticks and other debris that offer a rich mulch in which the plants grow. "Texas Style" replaces the porous limestone with a thick layer of perlite, at least 1 1/2" for a 4-inch pot. Originally, a number of holes (an inexpensive soldering iron works very well) were made about 1 1/2" above the base of the pot at one-inch intervals all the way around. However, most larger pots now have very nice drainage holes going well up on the side, and the additional holes are no longer necessary as the perlite seems to have plenty of aeration without them. You can place the holes at 1 1/2" as a guide to your perlite level if this helps you when planting. A light, sterile soil mix takes the place of the leaves and debris and is used for planting your African violet. The potted plant is then placed on its own saucer with adequate room for watering into the saucer. Select a saucer that is at least a couple of inches larger than your pot. It's easier for most of us to use just one or two sized saucers, and I elected to have 10" and 6" as they cover most contingencies. The solution (1/4 strength fertilizer water or just plain water) is added to a depth of 1/4 to 1/2 inch, and if all of this is absorbed quickly, a small amount more can be added. (The system works well for Rex begonias and a great many of the other gesneriads as well.) The miniatures and semiminiatures are planted in the same fashion, taking into consideration the proportions and adjusting them to fit the smaller size pot. I make one change if I plan to use a reservoir for the small plants - putting the holes in the side at about one inch from the bottom all the way around for better gas exchange. This may be due to the holes in the bottom being filled with a wick and roots, causing the pot to sit more snugly on the reservoir; and since the holes are small, it doesn't have enough aeration.



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

Regular potting does look the same but doesn't have the perlite layer. One of the real problems with African violets is that keeping a plant soggy over a prolonged period is a sure killer. This is one of the great advantages to reducing the soil mass with the perlite layer - you are less likely to overwater.

Q: What is the best mix for African violets? I have heard that soilless mixes are best, but what proportion would you suggest?

A: This element of African violet growing seems to stir the greatest controversy among hobbyists. To start with, the problems involved make a vast difference. Whether the grower lives in the north, south, east or west is further complicated by location, such as a basement with a very stable temperature range, an east-facing sun room with good air circulation, to the room on the second floor that is much warmer or has big temperature swings. Before you feel I'm copping out, check within your own club or with growers who are having good results to see if all use the same mix. In Southern California there is a wide variety of mix recipes with excellent results for those growers. Your mix may need to be adjusted to best suit your conditions and your growing methods. The following is the mix perfected at Cornell University for all gesneriads. It is given in the original proportions that appear in Helen Van Pelt Wilson's African Violet Book. This was my first introduction to growing, and the basic principle of this mix is still used with modifications for my growing conditions.

Use a 6-inch clay pot for measuring:

- 4 1/2 pots shredded imported sphagnum peat moss
- 2 1/4 pots horticultural vermiculite (No. 2 or 3)
- 2 1/4 pots perlite, medium grade
- 2 1/2 tablespoons limestone, dolomite preferred
- 1 1/4 tablespoons 20% powdered super phosphate
- 3 3/4 tablespoons 5-10-5 or 6-12-6 fertilizer

Q: On a plant of 'Dumplin', the small center leaves have a golden crust which can be scraped off but the tiny, tiny leaves are impossible to reach, and all new leaves arrive with this condition. I would like to grow this plant but do not want to have the condition spread to my other plants. I feed all of my plants with Miracle Gro 20-20-20, and my plants are wicked.

A: Without seeing the plant, I'm guessing what you have is called "fertilizer crud" for lack of a better name. This can be washed off, providing you catch it as soon as it starts and the tiny leaves are not yet damaged. This plant may dislike the particular proportions of the fertilizer and would do better with a weaker one or even with a complete rest from any fertilizing on alternate waterings. Have you tried flushing the plant once a month to wash out the salts buildup, including those from water or soil? You may need to change the water in your reservoirs to be sure the fertilizer solution is not getting stronger as evaporation takes place. As a personal preference I rotate fertilizers, using 4 different types. A 20-20-20 which is an excellent foliar spray, a 10-15-10, VF-11 0.15-0.85-0.55 as a light feeding, and 23-17-19. At show time I use a 12-55-6 to promote bloom but only at the 8th and 7th weeks prior to show and as a foliar spray for the same two weeks as well. The various companies do not seem to use the same system for computing the plant's need for trace elements, and a variety of fertilizers offer a balance.

Q: I put down a leaf from a favorite plant. The resulting babies are nice-sized plants now, but the foliage is different. One has scalloped edges that lie flat and wheel-shaped; the other also has the scalloped edges, but the leaves are wavy. The blossoms look similar, but one has the

white edge - the other does not. Should they both be labeled with the name of the mother plant?

A: Since neither of the plants fits the description in the MVL, or that of the hybridizer, they would be considered sports and should be so named. Unless they are an improvement over the original plant or are at least very attractive in their own right, it might be best to just discard them or give the plants to a person who is not interested in a correct name.

Q: Where can I find those tiny little pots to miniaturize some of my African violets?

A: On page two of the AVM is an Index of Advertisers, and a number of them offer supplies - some even list many different sizes of pots. You can send for catalogs from a number of the advertisers and choose which one has the most items in which you are interested.

Q: I took cuttings from a lovely trailer and planted two of them in exactly the same conditions. One has grown and is now covered with pretty blossoms, while the other has never formed a single bud. They are even in the same growing area, right next to each other. What could be the problem?

A: This is not all that uncommon among violets and may be the reason we now have such wonderful variety in color and leaf shapes. Violets are very unstable and subject to change without notice. Discard the nonblooming trailer and propagate from the one that blooms.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.

What's New on the Web

by Wayne Donaho

New African Violet Forum

The most exciting addition to the Web for African violet lovers this month is the new African Violet Forum on Garden Web. The forum URL is at <http://www.GardenWeb.com/forums>. This forum is run by the folks at Garden Web and is in association with AVSA. It would be wonderful if you have time to check in and read the forum. There are many novice growers who are not AVSA members (and quite a few who have never heard of AVSA). Take some time and answer their questions; that personal touch is the best way to invite potential members to join AVSA.

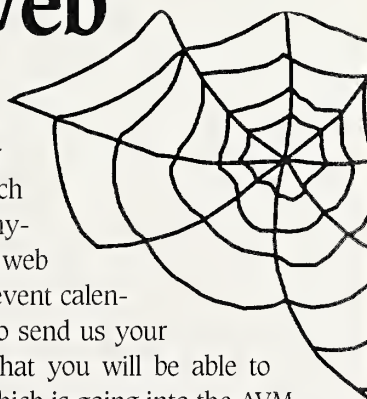
New Event Calendar

When the new web site was brought on-line, the event calendar program was, unfortunately, too hard to

use. I am pleased to announce a new calendar program which makes it much easier to enter events. If anyone in your local club has web access, please use the new event calendar on the AVSA web site to send us your events. One advantage is that you will be able to proofread the information which is going into the AVM before it is published. To view the calendar, look at the URL <http://www.avsa.org/calendar>.

1998 Convention Photos

Photographs from the 1998 Convention have been published on the Web Site. Look at <http://www.avsa.org/eshow/> to see these photos.



Showcase

Flower Child

Exhibited by:
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Commercial Display Table

Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky



Cool Blue

Exhibited by:
Pat Richards

Blue Ribbon
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky



Saintpaulia
Grandifolia #299

Exhibited by:

Jim Turner

Best Species

Photo Credit:

Winston J. Goretsky



Cirelda

Exhibited by:

Gini McCanne

Best Trailer

(Commercial Specimen Class)

Photo Credit:

Winston J. Goretsky



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Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from February 1, 1998 to March 31, 1998

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 San Diego Daytime AVS, La Mesa, CA 837.74
Balance of account, club disbanded
 Union County Chapter AVS, Roselle Park, NJ 25.00
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 Albuquerque AVC, Albuquerque, NM 120.00
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Total \$1526.74

What does it all mean?

There are so many words used by initiates into any specialty that others find it hard to fight their way through the wall of jargon. Here are the meanings of a few African violet words.

Chimera: This has to do with the genetic makeup of the plant, which is rather complicated. The outcome, however is not. In African violets it means a variety which will not propagate true from a leaf (sideshoots and flower stalks may give varying degrees of success). The flower is usually a "pinwheel", that is, each petal has a stripe down the center; for example 'Kiwi Dazzler' is a wine-red with a white stripe on each petal; 'Emiko' is pink with a white stripe.

Fantasy flowers: Those with spots and stripes of one color on a background of another color. The most common color combination has blue or purple flecks on a pink background (like 'Chiffon Print'), but others have spots, say, in pink on a blue background (for instance, 'Big Charlie') or even in color on white, or on white on color - in fact almost any combination you please.

Potting Mix: Not to be confused with "soil," or "potting soil". African violets are grown in a medium that is free of actual soil, an ingredient which packs down too heavily for the tender roots of the violets. Potting mixes are made of all sorts of ingredients, but they are typically peat moss, vermiculite, perlite and

charcoal. Call it "dirt" or "soil" if you like - just remember it doesn't contain any!

Constant Feeding: This just refers to the practice of fertilizing the plant all the time when watering. It doesn't matter how you water, but if you dilute the fertilizer in the water as you do it, then that is constant feeding.

Foliar Feeding: Fertilizing the plant by spraying a diluted fertilizer solution on the leaves. Some authorities feel that African violets take up nutrients quite well this way, others never use it. It is possible to burn the leaves by using foliar fertilizing, however, so be careful. Always dilute much weaker than you would apply to the roots. Nitrogen fertilizers are said to be taken up by the leaves more easily than others.

Neck: Refers to the trunk which remains under the leaves after outside leaves have died or have been removed. It normally looks bad, is considered undesirable, will lose points in a show, and indicates the plant needs repotting. When repotted, the "neck" should be lightly scraped and the plant potted down until the bottom leaves are on the top of the potting mix once again.

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AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

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<i>Towards purchase of new office computers</i>		<i>Apply to computer upgrade program</i>	
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Marie Gail, Tucson, AZ.	\$5.00	<i>Towards memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
Deborah Metcalf, Danville, NH.	\$2.00	Elaine Niece, Aurora, CO.	\$10.00
Evelyn J. Boyer, Austin, TX.	\$25.00	<i>Towards memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
<i>Towards Beaumont office computers</i>		Dorothy J. Roesch, Lakewood, CO.	\$25.00
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Janet Robertson, Seal Beach, CA.	\$25.00	Mr. Charles A. Willis, Denver, CO.	\$50.00
<i>Apply to computer upgrade</i>		<i>Towards memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
Ralph Mancusi, Orange Park, FL.	\$2.00	Central Jersey AVS, Matawan, NJ.	\$10.00
Marie Gullikson, Onalaska, WI.	\$5.00	<i>In lieu of judges' travel expense for</i>	
Lois Measures, Oxnard, CA.	\$5.00	<i>Kay & Bill Lyons, Levittown, PA</i>	
Ruby Cox, Bethany, MO.	\$10.00		
Mrs. Maurice Jones, Durant, IA.	\$50.00		
<i>Towards the new office computers</i>			
		Total.	\$1,159.00

Showcase

"Balloon Adventure"

Exhibited by:
Cathy Cornibe
*Best Interpretive Flower
Arrangement - Best Design*
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky



"Strike It Rich at Coloma"

Exhibited by:
Vera Parker
Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement
3rd Best Design
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky





Columnea 'Julia'

Exhibited by: Lynn Lombard

Best Other Gesneriad - (Commercial Specimen Class)

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Annual Library Message



Jackie Jones
Library Chairman
607 14th Ave
Durant, IA 52747

We want to thank the many people that made use of the AVSA Library materials through the past year. We have again added two new slide programs. "We Visit Sacramento -1998" highlights the lovely exhibits at our most recent convention show. "New Cultivars -1998" is the slide presentation shown at the Saturday luncheon during the Sacramento convention.

While technology keeps advancing at a rapid pace, we still find the slide programs working well for many

clubs. As growers, we are all looking for pictures of the plants in their truest colors and the slide film is still hard to beat for that purpose.

The videos that have been added to our library have received good response. Most of these are particularly aimed at the novice grower. When selecting a program for your club you might find it helpful to talk to the office staff for recommendations. They are able to give you tips on what video might be most useful for you.

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A \$5.00 PER WEEK PENALTY WILL BE ASSESSED FOR ANY PROGRAM NOT POSTMARKED WITHIN FOUR (4) DAYS AFTER SCHEDULED RESERVED DATE, UNLESS OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

Return programs to:
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3. Special requests for two or more slide programs for the same date may be made and will be filled when possible, but such requests are not encouraged because of the great demand for slide programs and the limited numbers available.
4. Cost of slide program with cassette is \$10.00; and cost of slide program without cassette is \$8.00. Only those slide programs in the descriptive list with a "(C)" after the titles have cassettes. Those programs may be reserved with or without the cassettes. Cost of video programs is \$10.00.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

SECTION 1: CONVENTION SHOWS

Slide programs of outstanding exhibits at National Convention shows; especially entertaining for members not attending conventions.

- 163L "THE NEW ENGLAND SPIRIT" (C) (80 Slides) Experience the best of the award-winning plants and designs displayed "The New England Way," Boston 1990.
- 166L "VIOLETS IN THE GOLDEN STATE" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning plants and designs from the Santa Clara convention 1991.
- 167L "A CENTURY OF VIOLETS" (C) (80 Slides) An exciting presentation of award-winning plants and designs from "Violet Heritage and Horizons," Columbus 1992.
- 169L "MORE PENNSYLVANIA FRIENDS" (C) (80 Slides) of award-winning exhibits at the 1993 National Convention Show.
- 171L "A FESTIVAL OF VIOLETS" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the Denver National AVSA Show 1994.
- 175L "ST. LOUIS BLUES AND OTHER COLORS" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the 1995 St. Louis convention.
- 179L "ATLANTA REVISITED! OUR 50TH" (C) (79 Slides) Many of the winning exhibits, both horticulture and design, enjoyed at the 50th Anniversary convention, Atlanta, GA 1996.

- 183L** **"VIOLETS AT THE BEACH"** (C) (78 Slides) Winning exhibits from the convention show 1997 at St. Petersburg Beach, FL.
- 190L** **"WE VISIT SACRAMENTO - 1998"** (C) (80 Slides) Horticulture and designs presented by exhibitors in our convention show, April 1998 in California.

SECTION II: NEW INTRODUCTIONS

A series of programs compiled from slides of new cultivars submitted by hybridizers and commercial members.

- 168L** **"GEMS OF COLUMBUS"** (C) (80 Slides) A collection of slides depicting the best new introductions at the 1992 Columbus, Ohio convention.
- 170L** **"LANCASTER LOVELIES"** (C) (80 Slides) The best 1993 introductions shown by Ray "Sundown" Pittman at the Lancaster Convention.
- 172L** **"DENVER DEBUTANTS"** (C) (80 Slides) Selected outstanding 1994 introductions from various hybridizers. Presented by Kent Stork at the Denver Convention.
- 176L** **"WE MET IN ST. LOUIS"** (C) (80 Slides) - Meet the 1995 new hybrids - slides submitted by various hybridizers and introduced at the St. Louis convention.
- 180L** **"FIFTY YEARS AND GROWING"** (C) (80 Slides) Slides submitted by various hybridizers and shown in Atlanta, GA at the 50th Anniversary convention.
- 184L** **"NEW VARIETIES ON PARADE"** (C) (71 Slides) Hybridizers share slides of their new varieties presented at 1997 Convention St. Petersburg Beach, FL.
- 191L** **"NEW CULTIVARS - 1998"** (C) (50 Slides) Slides of new plants from our hybridizers.

SECTION III : AFRICAN VIOLET LIFE

A series of slide programs relative primarily to African violet culture and related subjects. Somewhat dated but with much helpful information for the novice grower.

- 147L** **"THE AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT"** (77 Slides) A good, basic program identifying leaf types, blossom form and colors, and diseases that affect the foliage.
- 140L** **"MULTIPLYING SAINTPAULIAS"** (65 Slides) Basic program on African Violet propagation including leaf cuttings, plant division, seed and grafting. Slides show how to produce and plant seeds.
- 150L** **"THE PITTMAN WAY OF GROWING VIOLETS"** (C) (84 Slides) A step-by-step visual program on growing and grooming miniature and semiminature African violets.
- 153L** **"VIOLETS AND MORE VIOLETS"** (79 Slides) A basic lesson for beginners on setting leaves, separating baby plants from mother leaf and dividing multiple-crowned plant including suggestions on potting, repotting a large plant and a way to treat a necky plant.
- 151L** **"THE SAINTPAULIA SPECIES"** (79 Slides) A comprehensive, educational, workshop-type program. Very thorough and somewhat technical. A depicted work by Neva Anderson.
- 161L** **"POINTERS IN JUDGING"** (C) (74 Slides) A revised version of workshop program for judges and exhibitors. Emphasis on grooming of plants in preparation for showing.
- 182L** **"TRAILERS - MAKING THEM DO WHAT I WANT THEM TO DO"** (C) (70 Slides)(1997) Bev Promersberger demonstrates how she grows trailers that make the "Winners Circle".

SECTION IV: GESNERIADS

Programs identifying African violet cousins, their care and propagation.

- 139L** **"MEET THE FAMILY"** (C) (60 Slides) A vivid look at some of the other members of the gesneriad family, compiled and narrated by Margaret Waguespack. An informative program for those who want to broaden their growing horizons or for those who just want to "meet the family".
- 178L** **"UNUSUAL GESNERIADS FOR THE LIGHT GARDEN"** (C) (54 Slides) A group of the smaller gesneriads suitable for the light stand.

SECTION V: VIOLET PESTS AND DISEASES

Slide programs identifying pests and diseases and their impact on African violet cultivars.

- 132L** **"AFRICAN VIOLET PESTS"** (C) (52 Slides) A short, succinct program by Dr. Charles L. Cole with vivid illustration of common African violet pests.
- 152L** **"VIOLET TROUBLES"** (63 Slides) Pests, diseases, and results of poor culture exhibited in the program. An oldie, but good basic information.

SECTION VI: SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- 187L** **30TH AVSC CONVENTION - TORONTO 1997** Slides of the Canadian Show. (80 slides)

VIDEO TAPES

- 173L** **"AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE NEW GARDEN"** Ken Froboese talks violets - a visit with Ken in his greenhouse, Hill Country African Violets.
- 181L** **"HUNGRY ATHLETES"** - 1997 Presentation at Atlanta convention by Dr. Charles Cole. 60 minutes of information for the serious grower.
- 185L** **"GROWING BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS"** (28 minutes). Anna Jean Landgren demonstrates how she grows trailers. One of a series of presentations for TV by members of Illinois State AV Society.
- 186L** **"TEACHING THE TRICKS"** (27 minutes) A second presentation of the cable TV productions - this one shows Jean Willey instructing new grower Tracy Bruns in the basics of African violet growing. Particularly good for novice growers.
- 188L** **"RAGS TO RICHES"** - Another cable TV presentation in the series of House Plant How-tos. This is by Andrea Worell as she demonstrates how to groom or redo those African violets that need "help".
- 189L** **"PROPAGATING YOUR POSIES"** - This video, also by Andrea Worell, shows how she starts African violets and some other gesneriads. Another of the House Plant How-tos series. Andrea has a new slant on an old idea. Very entertaining.

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DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PACKETS

- 155L** **JUST FOR FUN PACKET:** "Violet Carol" Christmas skit in one act. A fun way to celebrate the holidays with a skit performed by your club members. This is an original skit written by Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE, and donated to the AVSA Library.
- 156L** **NEWSLETTER/MAGAZINE PACKET:** Anyone desiring to start a newsletter or magazine would find this packet helpful.
- 157L** **PROGRAM-PLANNING PACKET:** Suggestion to help a program chairman, or committee, plan the programs for a club's activities.
- 158L** **SHOW SCHEDULES PACKET:** Show schedules of African violet shows from different sections of the country. Excellent for new ideas and those clubs planning their first show.
- 159L** **YEARBOOK COLLECTION PACKET:** This packet contains yearbooks from various affiliate clubs. Especially recommended for clubs producing their first yearbook.
- 192L** **INSTALLATION PACKET:** A collection of different installation programs that will be found interesting and useful for installing your new officers.

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AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Floyd Lawson
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1985

Autumn Honey #4462 (Groeneman)
Black Ace #3541 (Nadeau)
Cherry Frosting #4333 (Fredette)
Disco Dazzler #3909 (Lyon)
Granger's Carnival #4298 (Eyerdom)
Granger's Heart's Desire #3407 (Eyerdom)
Irish Angel #4054 (L. Egenites)
Kristi Marie #3914 (Lyon)
Polly Doodle #4339 (Fredette)
Rhapsodie® Barbara #6979 (Holtkamp)
Something Special #3668 (Nadeau)
Splish Splash n/r (Lyon)
Spring Fling #3553 (Nadeau)
Sundown #3598 (Utz)
Swamp Fever #4046 (Sisk)

1986

Chris Leppard #4636 (Maas)
Dominique #4335 (Fredette)
Fisher's Leone #4540 (E. Fisher)
Lady Baltimore #4337 (Fredette)
Love Bug #4513 (Lyon)
Marie Knoblock #4042 (Sisk)
Optimara® Nevada #6964 (Holtkamp)
Optimara® New Mexico #6583 (Holtkamp)
Snuggles #5018 (Lyon)
Spanish Moss #4045 (Sisk)

1987

Fisherman's Paradise #4843 (Sisk)
Granger's Desert Dawn #4050 (Eyerdom)
Optimara® Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Happy Cricket #5726 (Hollada)
Interlude #4935 (Eyerdom)
Ms. Pretty #5225 (Anderson)
Winnergreen #4693 (Pittman)

1988

Camelot Pink #4293 (H. Eyerdom)
Cactus Rose #4147 (Fredette)
Crystallaire #4295 (H. Eyerdom)
Glittersweet #4431 (Fredette)
Granger's Valencia #4051 (Eyerdom)
Kingwood Red #4308 (H. Eyerdom)
Summer Lightning #5023 (Lyon)
Trail Along n/r (Lyon)
Vibrant Val #3918 (Lyon)

1989

Anna Kreeck #5784 (Trent)
Big Bird #5155 (Fredette)
Christmas Candy-O #5032 (Groeneman)
Columbia #5450 (Eyerdom)
Dumplin' #3931 (Swift)
Fairy Queen n/r (Fisher)
Kiwi Dazzler #5888 (Snell)
Mauna Loa #5336 (Eyerdom)
Optimara® Alabama #6542 (Holtkamp)
Splendiferous #5813 (Whitaker)
Wrangler's Dixie Celebration #4490 (Smith)

1990

Boca Grande #5112 (S. Williams)
Emilie Savage #5445 (Eyerdom)
Frances Young #5890 (Pittman)
Hart's Snow White #5590 (A. Hart)
Melodie Kimi #8100 (Sunnyside/Levy)
Ming Blue #5823 (Eyerdom)
Pay Dirt #4988 (P. Tracey)
Wrangler's Jealous Heart #6225 (W. Smith)
Wrangler's Pink Patches #6230 (W. Smith)

1991

Mickey Mouse n/r (Inpijn)
Nortex's Snowfrill Haven #6045 (B. Johnson)
Nortex's Snowkist Haven #6046 (B. Johnson)
Optimara® Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Precious Pink #6025 (Pittman)
Snow Rose #5985 (Whitaker)

1992

Dancin' Trail #5565 (Sorano)
Falling Snow n/r (Tracey)
Fickle Flirt #6738 (Sorano)

1993

Little Pro #6637 (Pittman)

1994

Optimara® Rose Quartz #6969 (Holtkamp)

1995

There are no 1995 additions to the Honor Roll of African Violets

1996

Tomahawk #7269 (K. Stork)
Irish Flirt #7577 (S. Sorano)

1997

Ode to Beauty #7677 (Cox/B. Johnson)
Picasso #6924 (M. Tremblay)

To be in the Honor Roll of African Violets, a variety must have appeared in the Best Varieties list for three consecutive years.

(Minor editorial changes have been made on some of the above cultivars for compliance with the current MVL)

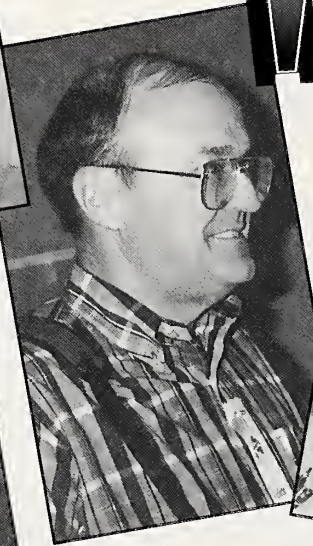
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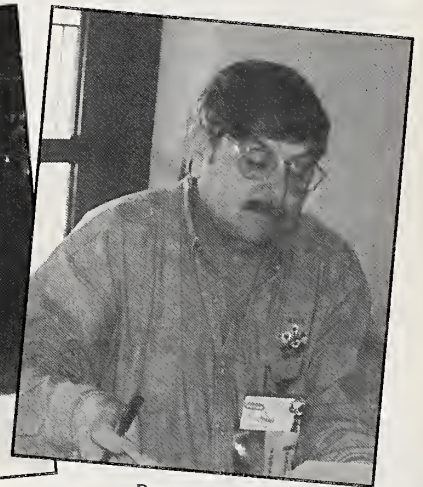
Reg & Dorothy Townsend



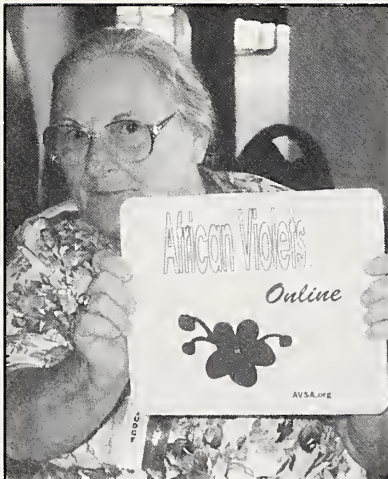
Linda Owens, Bill Foster and Daphne Snell



Jim Owens



Ron Davidson



Mary Walbrick



Homer & Helen Blanton



Edna Rourke



Gabriela Liberty & Ingrid Nelson

California!



Laurel & Winston Goretzky



Betty Roberson



Harriette Poss



Pat Richards



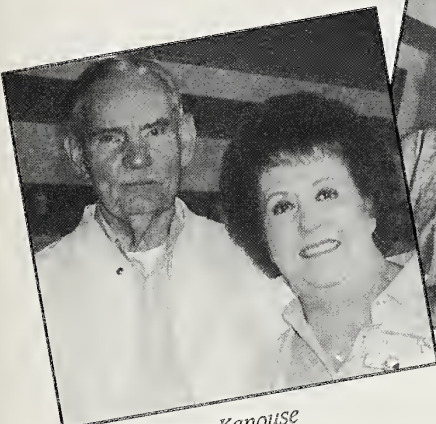
Hortense Pittman & Connie Leifeste



Iris Keating



Kay & Bill Lyons



Bill & Blossom Kanouse



Mary Lloyd



Newlyweds Olive Ma & Ralph Robinson



Fred Packer & Sidney Sorano



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VIOLETS ON VACATION

by Barbara Goodsell
Glenview, IL

For many years my family has vacationed for 5-6 weeks on Estero Island, FL. It's strictly an R & R vacation. All we do is step out onto a wide, sugary-white beach, go to the pool, read, and go out to eat. This past year it was 37 days of no cooking! What a life!

Years ago I contacted the AVSA Office and have my AVMs sent to me while on vacation. I didn't want to miss any shows or sales that were nearby.

The Gulf AVC was having a display/sale, and I decided to go. Being violet growers, you know that the early bird catches the worm (plant). Did I ever make a catch when I walked into that sales room! One plant jumped out at me and said, "Take me home, take me home!"

I had been looking for a plant of 'Illini Peace' for a number of years. I purchased it along with a few extra

leaves, just in case something happened.

Since I was on vacation, I also had to buy a few pots and some soil. And, I must add that my husband was very understanding about my caring for the African violets and leaves while on vacation.

When I returned home, I was curious as to how an Illinois plant ended up in sunny Florida, so I wrote to the grower. As it turned out, the plant had come from two Illinois sisters who had moved to Florida.

Now it's back where it belongs. Over the years, 'Illini Peace' has won several awards around the country. I'm going to be giving away leaves and babies to growers, and hopefully we'll have many to give away when the AVSA convention is held in the Chicago area in 2001!



A LINE ON DESIGN

by Peggy Walsh • Rogers, AR

Walking into an African violet show and seeing a room full of beautiful plants surrounded by lovely and imaginative designs is a truly uplifting experience. And, while most of us have come to see the plants, we eventually migrate to the design section because designs set off these beautiful plants and blossoms - much like mounting can set off a beautiful gem.

Because of its peripheral aspect, the design division may seem less important to the show as is her sister, horticulture. After all, we cannot have a show without plants! But somewhere in the scheme of things, our predecessors felt that designs would be an appropriate addition, and they were right. Our shows would be far less exciting without designs.

Making designs is not an easy task for most of us. It takes time, study, imagination, lots of patience, and determination. (A little talent helps too.) If a person follows the rules regarding soil, water, light, fertilizer, pest control, etc., he/she can grow show plants. Design, however, is a different matter. Yes, there are rules in design, but they are less precise. Design is an art form and therefore less easily pinned down. Horticulture is a

science and follows specific rules.

Persuading club members to enter designs for the first time is not an easy task. They are usually intimidated by more experienced designers. Because of this, there is a tendency for the same members to dominate the design sections year after year. This can lead to designs that are predictable and less exciting. As it stands now, some members enter as many as four or five designs in a show because the niches must be filled. New blood is needed to keep competitive juices flowing!

Perhaps we could encourage more members to participate in design if entering designs was made more enticing. We could start by putting up the Best of Design on the awards table. We could make awards for design winners more in line with horticultural awards. We might include more pictures of award-winning designs in the ASVA magazine, and hybridizers can be encouraged to give awards for designs using their plants and blossoms.

Designs give our shows much style and beauty. They go far in interpreting the show theme. Maybe it's time to give them a little more recognition.

Some Experiences in Hybridizing with the Rosette Species

Dr. Jeff Smith

Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306

In addition to the hybridizing work reported earlier with some of the trailing *Saintpaulia* species, I have also experimented with some of the rosette or non-trailing species. While the results have not been as overly encouraging as that from the trailers, the rosette species appear to offer some interesting traits for hybridization.

As most growers of African violets know, today's cultivars can be traced to the species *S. ionantha* and *S. confusa*. A mixture of these two plants was apparently in the material sent to Germany by Baron von St. Paul. *S. ionantha* was the first species named from the material, but differences in the seed capsules later led to a second species, *S. confusa*, being identified. It is presumed that today's cultivars share both of these species in their genetic makeup.

Relatively few of the other African violet species have apparently been used in the development of today's cultivars. Miniature African violets may have been developed with the help of the miniature species *S. shumensis*, but this has not been firmly documented. The only other rosette species that is known to have contributed to the gene mixture of today's cultivars is *S. velutina*. The late hybridizer Jimmy Dates used this species in several of his plants with bustled foliage and wasp blooms. The best examples are 'Nymph Fly' and 'Pink Fly'. Both of these cultivars have the dark-colored leaves and dense leaf hairs of their *S. velutina* ancestor. Since interest in the bustled foliage and wasp bloom plants has been limited, it appears unlikely that *S. velutina* has made a significant impact in the genetics of today's plants.

Mr. Dave Rose provided me with material from some of his hybridization work with *S. difficilis*. Plants from crosses of this species with the cultivars 'Fickle Flirt' and 'Christmas Carol' share several characteristics in common. The most interesting feature of these hybrids is that they show the depressed leaf vein character of the *S. difficilis* parent. The veins are sunken into the leaves, giving the leaves a more textured appearance than that usually found in today's cul-

tivars. However, the leaves tend to be small and do not overlap each other well. The flowers are small in size and are not particularly interesting in shape or color. A great deal of breeding work would be necessary to exploit the depressed vein character and improve the general quality of the plants. I have noticed, however, that the plants are reasonably tolerant of cooler growing conditions and lower light levels, traits that might also be worth exploiting.

One of the most successful rosette species and cultivar crosses I have observed is that of *S. grandifolia* x 'Phantom Flash'. The original intent of the cross was to combine the large leaf size and heavy bloom characteristics of the species with the excellent show qualities of 'Phantom Flash'. Several of the seedlings from this cross have been promising. The large leaf size of the species parent has been inherited. The petioles of the leaves are long, flexible, and produce good layers of overlapping foliage. The foliage can be slightly tricky to shape for show, but the flexibility of the leaves makes the foliage very forgiving when it comes to accidents. The flowers are mostly semidoubles in a medium blue. Flower count is good but is more like the 'Phantom Flash' parent than that of the species. The weakest trait of the hybrids is that the flower stalks are somewhat weak and do not support the flowers as well above the foliage as could be desired. This is a character trait that could be improved with further hybridization efforts.

Another interesting cross is that of the species *S. diplotricha* Punter x an unnamed cultivar with single coral-red flowers. The hybrids have inherited foliage similar to the species parent but with fewer leaf hairs. Also, the paler shades of the hybrid blossoms come from the pale-colored blooms of the species parent. One seedling in particular has an unusual pale red-violet flower color that has overtones of coral red. Pigment testing of the flowers has not yet been done to identify the specific flower pigment response for the color, but the flower color is interesting and shows promise for further work with this species. Unfortunately, the seedlings

were all single-droppers; the double character of the cultivar parent failed to be expressed. This problem could be easily overcome by using a cultivar with full-double flowers in the cross with *S. diplotricha*, giving the offspring a higher chance for double or semidouble flowers.

The two species plants that became available to the public earlier this decade, *S. white ionantha* and *S. Robertson*, both show potential for hybridization work. *S. white ionantha*'s delicate near-white flower color should be a genetic dominant trait. Cross of this plant with darker-flowered cultivars should give offspring with pale flower shades. For example, a cross of *S. white ionantha* and a medium-blue cultivar should produce some offspring with pale-blue flowers, a color combination not found in many of today's cultivars. *S. Robertson* has light-blue flowers but also offers a large, robust growth form. This plant also tends to arch the leaf petioles away from the center of the plant, a characteristic that could help hold heavy leaves off pot rims. Hybridizers who are trying to produce large-growing plants whose leaves show heavy substance and form might do well to consider the use of *S. Robertson* in their breeding programs.

To the best of my knowledge, hybridization work has not been done with the Nguru Mountain species *S. nitida* and *S. brevipilosa*. Both of these species have only short leaf hairs, giving their leaves a fine plush or even glossy appearance. Hybridizers who desire to produce plants with a different leaf appearance might try to develop this characteristic from these two species. *S. nitida* has a semi-trailing growth habit, perhaps allowing the production of trailers with this leaf trait. *S. brevipilosa* is a relatively small-growing species, which might allow the development of semi-miniatures or even miniatures with glossy, shiny leaves. I would anticipate that a fair amount

of breeding work will be necessary to produce plants with good quality flowers, but hybridizers looking for some long-range projects might consider working with these two species.

I have been personally fascinated with the near succulent, longifolia style foliage of *S. tongwensis* and the naturally occurring variety, Sigi Falls. While Sigi Falls is generally a weak trailer or multi-crowned plant, hybrids produced from this species have already been shown to be single-crowned growers. Some of these hybrids have also inherited the Sigi Falls style of foliage. The flower characteristics have been improved in only 1-2 generations, suggesting that good quality plants with this foliage type will be relatively easy to produce.

The last rosette species I'd like to discuss is the plant from the Sylva Mather collection labeled as "Brother Paddy". This plant appears to be a new clone of *S. confusa*, but its exact species identity has not been confirmed. Brother Paddy has glossy foliage and produces numerous small, dark red-violet flowers, a unique flower color for one of the species plants. This plant can be grown as a small standard but tends to sucker easily and produce rambling multi-crowned plants. I have not yet tried crosses with this plant, but the unusual flower color suggests that it might be valuable for breeding work.

In summary, I would like to encourage the use of the rosette species as possible new genetic material in hybridization programs. The results observed from the limited attempts made to date are encouraging and suggest some of the potentials held within the rosette species. If growers of African violets continue to desire "something new", then these species should offer good materials for hybridizers to work from.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue
Sun City, AZ 85373-1926

Donations received from January 31, 1998 - March 31, 1998

Oval Office Violet & Lunch, Webster, TX 10.00
Periwinkle Garden Club, Greensboro, NC 20.00
In lieu of a speaker's fee to Mrs. Mary Cundiff
Diablo Valley AV Growers, Concord, CA 25.00
The Town & Country AVS, Grand Terrace, CA 25.00
In memory of Jordan Engberg
Maryann B. Flick, Old Saybrook, CT 5.00
Chuck Bingham, Minneapolis, MN 25.00
Mrs. G.E. Harmon, New York, NY 5.00
Lois Measures, Oxnard, CA 10.00
Donald Ferguson, Montgomery, AL 7.00
James S. Graf, Bloomington, MN 10.00
In memory of Carolyn Fleisch
Grace Moeller, Ridgefield, NJ 5.00
Daniel Ringhand, New Glarus, WI 10.00
AVS of Minnesota, Circle Pines, MN 15.00
Mrs. Roy Bartel, Milwaukee, WI 10.00
Evelyn J. Boyer, Austin, TX 25.00
Kay C. Schroeder, Clarksburg, MD 10.00
Alice M. Vance, Santa Rosa, CA 7.00
Cecelia Winfield, No. Brunswick, NJ 5.00
Mrs. Tom W. Clark, Charlotte, NC 10.00

F. Eleanor Mattaliano, Titan Falls, NJ 20.00
Nancy Twaskas, Elizabeth, NJ 1.00
AVS of South Bay, Sunnyvale, CA 25.00
In memory of Eva Walton
Montrose AVS, Montrose, CA 10.00
In memory of Sylvia Tanner
Ventura County AVS, Ventura, CA 20.00
In lieu of a speaker's fee to Carroll Gealy
Ventura County AVS, Ventura, CA 10.00
*In memory of Helen Mietzner,
a charter member of our club*
Tampa AVS, Tampa, FL 25.00
In memory of Fred Moak
Tampa AVS, Tampa, FL 25.00
In memory of Norma Leto
Capital City AVS, Sacramento, CA 25.00
Missouri Valley AV Council, Tulsa, OK 25.00
Mrs. Ivy Woods, Hamilton, Bermuda 5.00
P.A. Doolittle, Yreka, CA 5.00
Peg Phythyon, Wetumpka, AL 10.00
Betty Lewis, Lawrenceville, GA 10.00

Helen Wamsley, Pitkin, LA 2.00
Mrs. Dorothy Maybury, Somerset, Bermuda 10.00
John J. Krouse, Plainfield, NJ 4.00
Mrs. Janice Sorensen, Englewood, CO 10.00
In memory of Peggy Staat
Martha Compton, Bloomington, IL 7.00
Connie L. Leifeste, Woodway, TX 5.00
Tristate AV Council, Bordentown, NJ 25.00
Kathleen M. Stottle, Pittsfield, MA 5.00
First AVS of Denton, Denton, TX 20.00
Mrs. Mae Dodson, Baltimore, MD 5.00
Marilyn Heinrich, East Northport, NY 10.00
Springfield Chapter of AVS, Springfield, MO 10.00
Virginia A. Schneider, Bremerton, WA 2.00
Amethyst AVC, Chesterfield, MO 10.00
Quad Cities AVS, Davenport, IA 25.00
Tustana AVS, Costa Mesa, CA 10.00
Ventura County AVS, Ventura, CA 10.00
In memory of Ernest Thomson
Joan Hraban, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10.00
First Halifax AVS, Dartmouth, Canada 25.00

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

I have had a lot of action on the AVSA Most Wanted since it was last printed in the AVM. (The entire WANTED List was printed in the March-April AVM.) The following plants surfaced, and I thought you might like to know they are available.

Amethyst
Copper Tips
Coral Glo
Corpus Christie
Lloyd's Jo Ann
Katy Did - Hawley
Kilauea
Little Rascal
Mary
Mary Ann
Millie Blair

Mini Minx
Ness' Minnesota Splash
Norseman
Nymph Fly
Rob's Sailor Bill
Sarava (Fredette)
Seafoam
Suncoast Wedgewood
Sweet Lime
Tidecrest
Tye Dyed (Dates ?)

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

Antique Elegance
Ballet Erica
Dominion Rose
Granger's Eternal Snow
Granger's Fashionaire
Fire And Ice (Lineberg)
Golden Rubies
Gorgeous Bicolor
Great White Way

Henry Synthesis
Just Beautiful
Optimara® Kansas
Optimara® Maryland
Pink Velvet
Regina
Rosy Frills
Summer Silk
Granger's Venetian Lace

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the commercial growers for their catalogs and their continued participation in this endeavor. Without the continued support of all the members of AVSA this project would cease to exist. Thank you one and all.

Barbara Elkin

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Raymond Russell - Lawrence, KS

- ***Blissful Lady** (8696) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Single lavender pansy/darker tips. **Variegated** green and white, plain. **Standard**
- ***Blue Bingo** (8697) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Single light blue star/white edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- ***Blue Fuss** (8698) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double dark blue star. Dark green, pointed, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**
- ***Bubbling Over** (8699) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double dark pink star. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy. **Standard**
- ***Cherry Push-up** (8700) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double cherry red star. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***Do-Be-Pink** (8701) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Semidouble-double medium pink star. Dark green, pointed, ruffled. **Standard**
- ***Foolish Pride** (8702) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Single vivid pink star. Dark green, pointed, serrated. **Large**
- ***Jade of Rose** (8703) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double light pink star/green edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Oh So Blue** (8704) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double medium blue star. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- ***Ray's Big Wow** (8705) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Single dark lavender star. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed, quilted, ruffled. **Large**
- ***Ray's Coral Dawn** (8706) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Single-semidouble coral star/darker eye. Dark green, pointed, serrated. **Standard**
- ***Ray's Royal Crystals** (8707) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double plum-blue frilled star. **Variegated** dark green and white, pointed, quilted. **Large**
- ***Steel Blue** (8708) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double medium blue frilled star. Medium-dark green, pointed, serrated. **Large**
- ***Twice Spice** (8709) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Semidouble medium pink frilled star/lavender fantasy. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy. **Standard**
- ***Ultra Blue Ray's** (8710) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double dark blue ruffled star. **Variegated** dark green and white, pointed, quilted. **Large**
- ***Velvet Ray's** (8711) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Single cherry red star/white edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***Yesterday's Kiss** (8712) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Semidouble-double medium-dark blue ruffled star. Dark green, heart-shaped, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

- ***Yesterday's Love** (8713) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Semidouble-double medium pink frilled star/blue fantasy. Medium-dark green, pointed, serrated. **Large**

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

- ***Dolores' Antoinette** (8714) 3/11/98 (D. Harrington) Semidouble pink, cream and lavender ruffled pansy. Medium green, pebbled, glossy, wavy. **Standard**

Jack Cochran - Wagoner, OK

- ***Okie Easter Bunny** (8715) 3/11/98 (J. Cochran) Single pale pink stickite pansy/wide bright raspberry frilled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Skeeter** (8716) 3/11/98 (J. Cochran) Single light lavender stickite pansy/wide dark raspberry frilled edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

Raymond Russell - Lawrence, KS

- ***All Ready Red** (8717) 3/16/98 (R. Russell) Single red star/darker eye. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Glitter Memory** (8718) 3/16/98 (R. Russell) Double fuchsia/orchid overlay, pink-green edge. Dark green, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- ***Glitter Ray's** (8719) 3/16/98 (R. Russell) Semidouble-double rose-pink/raspberry overlay. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Mystical Love** (8720) 3/16/98 (R. Russell) Double rose-pink ruffled star/raspberry overlay. Dark green, plain, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- ***Strawberry Love** (8721) 3/16/98 (R. Russell) Double white and rose-pink frilled star. **Variegated** green, white and pink, pointed, quilted, pebbled. **Standard**
- ***Strawberry Swirl** (8722) 3/16/98 (R. Russell) Double red and white ruffled star. **Variegated** green, white and pink, pointed, quilted, pebbled. **Standard**

Ruth Bann - Fridley, MN

- ***Rebel's Centennial Star** (8723) 3/18/98 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble dark red large star. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

- ***Night Vision** (8724) 3/23/98 (D. Harrington) Semidouble black-wine large frilled star. **Crown variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, pebbled, glossy, wavy/red back. **Standard**

Appreciated by the Youngest

by Penny Calvert • Waterloo, IA

I have been in our local violet club now for just over a year. I am enjoying getting to know others who share in my interest, but I have noticed that there are not many younger people involved, which is a shame.

I don't seem to be as hooked as most on these blooming beauties, but that's because of many factors in my life. First, I have a horticulture background, and know living in a two-bedroom apartment that faces north means I must grow year-round with grow lights. Second, I have a husband and small boy, age three, giving me limited space in which to grow my plants.

I never seem to come away from a meeting, though, without at least one new plant. On these nights I am not quite sure sometimes who's more excited about it, me or my busy 3-year-old, Mitchell, as he thoroughly inspects the new "friend" that Mom brought home.

Going to the table where my other violets are displayed, he checks to see if our new one resembles any already there. If so, he will carefully compare them.

Mitchell is quite interesting to watch; very gently he inspects each plant, comparing their blooms and leaves without doing damage to either. He then lets me know if he likes my choice or not and then knows the drill.

Getting out a new pot and soil so the new one can be repotted at once, after I've marked and tagged the new plant, he helps water it in and puts it in its new home for a few

weeks of quarantine.

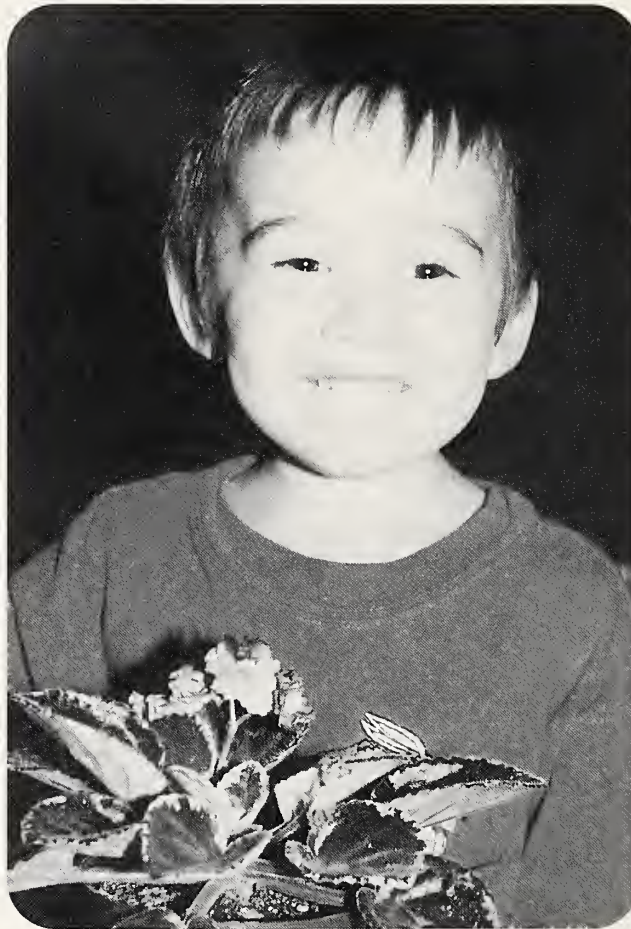
At our club's recent show, he was very excited as I showed him all the different plants and blooms, and had to promise to let him choose one before we left.

This was a difficult process with so many to choose from, but we patiently went through the show tables, examining all the ones he was interested in. He had a hard time choosing just one and was making many members of the club nervous as he studied the plants. (Granted, they were nervous that such a little guy was not just looking, but touching the plants! He was being more careful than many of the adults.)

After a good twenty minutes of searching, we narrowed his choices down to two, and he finally settled on 'Optimara Little Fluorite'. He carried it to the car and carefully held it all the way home, not losing a bloom or leaf. He went through his normal process after he got it home and was quite pleased with himself, as this was HIS violet, not Mom's!

Mitchell makes sure that I look at his plant every time he sees something new about it. When I work with my violets, he insists I look at his first. He is very proud to show others his little beauty, which shows that even the youngest among us appreciate the African violet's value.

It's this kind of enthusiasm that all clubs need, and I assure you as this little guy gets older, he will be allowed to join me even more to share in this interest.



Mitchell Calvert



Disbudding

By Marcia Lazarus



For beginners, disbudding seems to be the most difficult aspect of growing African violets. Fancy removing all those beautiful blooms you have spent time and energy trying to achieve!

Unfortunately, if you want to obtain anything close to the perfection of the plants you see on the show bench in November, disbudding *is* necessary. Disbudding simply means removing the flower stems for a set period of time and is done for the following reasons:

- To assist in the production of large healthy leaves and good symmetry. When a plant is flowering constantly, most of its energy is channeled into blooms, resulting in smaller leaf growth in the center of the plant or misshapen leaves.
- Disbudding gives you control as to when your plants will come into bloom.

Most experienced growers feel it takes 12-18 months to produce a large show plant. The plant is generally allowed to bloom on one or two stems to ensure the plant blooms "true" to description. The plant is then usually disbudded for the rest of the time. The entire flower stems are removed for the first six months, but if the stubs are left they will need to be removed when you are doing the final grooming for the show.

Plants should be checked every 10 days. Keep removing the entire flower stem until 5-6 months before the show date, (be sure to mark this date on your calendar). At this time you start to leave about 1/4 inch (0.5 cm) stub of the flower stem.

It is suggested to use long-handled scissors and carefully cut off the stalk without cutting or damaging the leaf axil where additional buds will be produced.

The timing part of disbudding is probably the most difficult as there are many variables to consider. As a general rule:

- Double blooms will be at their peak 8-9 weeks after disbudding stops.
- Single blooms require about 6 weeks to come into full bloom.

Mark the final disbudding date on the calendar and at this time start to remove any flower stems that are more than 1/8th of an inch long.

Local conditions can affect the speed of blooming. A cold spell can slow things down considerably. This can be overcome to a certain degree by increasing the length of light time by one hour. Additional heat can hurry things along, too. If your plants are coming on too rapidly, move them to the lowest/coolest shelf and decrease the time your lights are on.

Because there is so much energy going into leaf production, plants will grow at an increased rate. Therefore repotting will need to be done more often. There may also be an increase in the number of suckers, so check for and remove suckers each time you disbud.

Reprinted from the *Early Morn AV Group, Inc.*
Newsletter, Mt. Waverly, Australia



Attention Affiliates!

If your club's president has changed since September, 1997: To ensure that your club information is listed correctly in the September AVM, contact the AVSA office **IMMEDIATELY** with your new president's name and address.

AVSA

2375 North

Beaumont, TX 77702

1 (800) 770-2872

email avsa@earthlink.net

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

July Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 WED	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd 1:44 pm
2 THU	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
3 FRI 6:46 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
4 SAT	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
5 SUN 6:24 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
6 MON	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
7 TUE	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
8 WED 3:28 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
9 THU	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	Full 11:01 am
10 FRI 9:52 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
11 SAT	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
12 SUN 2:22 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
13 MON	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
14 TUE 5:45 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
15 WED	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
16 THU 8:33 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th 10:14 am
17 FRI	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
18 SAT 11:18 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
19 SUN	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
20 MON	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
21 TUE 2:43 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
22 WED	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
23 THU 7:49 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	New 8:44 am
24 FRI	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
25 SAT 3:34 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
26 SUN	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
27 MON	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
28 TUE 2:15 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
29 WED	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
30 THU 2:45 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
31 FRI	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd 7:05 am

August Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 SAT	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
2 SUN 2:48 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
3 MON	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
4 TUE 12:18 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
5 WED	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
6 THU 6:31 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
7 FRI	Aquarius	Air	Barren	Full 9:10 pm
8 SAT 10:04 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
9 SUN	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
10 MON	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
11 TUE 12:11 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
12 WED	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
13 THU 2:05 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
14 FRI	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th 2:49 pm
15 SAT 4:46 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
16 SUN	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
17 MON 8:56 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
18 TUE	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
19 WED 3:01 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
20 THU	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
21 FRI 11:22 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	New 9:03 pm
22 SAT	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
23 SUN	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
24 MON 10:02am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
25 TUE	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
26 WED 10:25 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
27 THU	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
28 FRI	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
29 SAT 10:55 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
30 SUN	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd 12:07 am
31 MON 9:23 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 40, 42 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4

People to People:

What Society Is All About

by Morgan Simmons
Evanston, IL

A few days ago I received a securely wrapped package from Blanche Bunker who lives in Portland, Oregon. Inside were a starter plant and two leaves of a long-time favorite African violet, 'Delft Imperial', which I had had in my collection for almost thirty years but which had finally given up the ghost. Now, Blanche and I have never met, but we became correspondents through the good graces of Barbara Elkin, who offers each reader of *African Violet* a wonderful service through her column "Vintage Violets".

These acts of generosity set me to thinking about other such outpourings of concern by fellow growers and how each of us is linked together by a common yearning for beauty and a desire to share that beauty with others. Why else would we spend months in careful preparation for a show? Or go to such lengths to procure a special plant? Or wait years to see a new hybrid come into its own?

Almost every plant in my collection has its own story. The best stories are more than accounts of twisted leaves or pests, which plants took blue ribbons, where they grow best in relation to light distribution, when they were last repotted, or what combination of fertilizer works best for the variegates. The most significant stories are the ones that relate to people. 'Pink Confession,' now in its third or fourth incarnation,

came from Lois Hughes who now lives hundreds of miles away. Two of my light stands are another evidence of her gracious generosity. 'Cirelda,' which fills an eighteen-inch container, along with 'Granger's Wonderland' and 'Phantom Flash', were given to me as starters from Jay and Barbara Corbett who have retired to Florida. 'Jazzy Jewel' 'Favorite Child' and 'Pueblo' bring back memories of a trip to Genola Cox's Violet Express and the stunning array of plants which she offered. 'Candy Swirls' grew from a leaf given by Steve Covolo. The list goes on and on.

No doubt, each of you has a wealth of memories related to your collection, so when you next encounter your plants, remember their origins and give thanks for the people who have made them a significant part of your life. Better still, think about ways you can extend the process of sharing, which after all, is at the heart of what a 'society' is all about.

Blanche Bunker, who because of her thoughtfulness bears no relation to another Bunker named Archie, and I will probably never meet in person, but she will be the first to know when 'Delft Imperial' puts out its first bloom. I also have a friend eagerly waiting for one of the babies from those two leaves which made the trip from Portland, Oregon to Evanston, Illinois.

In Memory

Helen Leone Mietzner

Helen Leone Mietzner, 90, a charter member of the Ventura County African Violet Society, died February, 1998 following a brief illness. An active member for many years, she was always willing to share her knowledge and enthusiasm. She was also a talented painter of floral miniatures.

Ernest Thomsen

Ernest Thomsen, a member of Ventura County AVS since 1981, died in January, 1998. He and his family staged many of the club's shows and gardens at the Ventura County Fair. A very competent carpenter, the club used some of his staging props numerous times. Ernest was always an able helper to members of VCAVS.

Ralph Reed

Ralph and his widow, Charlyne, who won the AVSA Bronze medal in New Orleans in 1980, were members of AVSA for many years, attending their first convention in Dallas in 1964. Owners and operators of the House of Violets in Camden, Arkansas for twenty-five years, they attended many conventions. They also entered commercial display tables many times, exhibiting their many hybrids.



Tour Time

by Jim Owens
Columbus, OH

Having returned from the 1998 AVSA convention in Sacramento, I can only say ... what a time we had!

Those Ohio State AVS members attending the convention were Betty and Vernon Harris, Doris Palm, Elaine Gordon, Gwen Goodship-Patience, Doris and John Brownlie and Linda and Jim Owens.

Monday started off with a gold mining tour. We actually panned for gold and ate a noon miner's meal, which was valued at sixty dollars during the gold rush. All day, and nary a person struck it rich, although Mary Boland (Virginia) did get two or three nice nuggets. The rest of us got flakes, and a couple of people each got two or three garnets. All in all, we had a lot of fun.

Those who did not pan for gold tried to strike it rich in Tahoe. I did not hear of anyone who hit it big there either, but they tried and all had fun. Cynthia De Correa (Panama) had never seen snow. So, you guessed it, on the way we stopped the bus and let her feel snow! Cynthia said it did look like the pictures she had seen.

Tuesday found some of us going to Old Town Sacramento. The fact that the shops did not open until ten o'clock in the morning did not stop us from our appointed rounds. 'Chatty Kathy', our excellent docent, imparted her knowledge of Sacramento and its buildings to us in a tour of the city. (Thanks to Barbara Elkin who arranged for the docent at her own expense.)

Ten Californians headed out to the Highway Patrol Academy for a personalized tour by a retired Chip officer and AVSA member. Not having enough to do that day, ninety hearty souls headed back to Old Town for a three-hour dinner cruise aboard a riverboat made famous by John Wayne. The food was excellent and plentiful; the 'above deck', cool and pleasant.

Wednesday found some of us at the Davis Arboretum. After an interesting visit to this attraction at the University of California in Davis we headed straight to the Jelly Belly factory. We toured the factory and sampled these marvelous beans. Pounds, possibly tons, of Belly Flops (those little production mistakes) were purchased and lugged home for our enjoyment. Others went to the Empire Mine, queen of the gold mining era in California, to view the mine, it's equipment, the mansion and beautiful flower gardens. After that they ventured on to Nevada City, a place with lots of shops and restaurants.

Thursday was the big tour day. Six hearty souls revisited the American River to try their luck panning for gold. The rest of us, numbering one-hundred-eleven ventured into Napa Valley. Thanks to AVSA President Esther Wells and Bobbie

Peters (Austin) for taking on the role of tour assistants. The help was much needed and appreciated. Our first stop, culminating after a two-hour bus ride in the rain, was the Petrified Forest. Our buses dropped us near the entrance. The pouring rain didn't stop us from walking the trails and descending upon the gift shop. Afterwards, we stopped in Calistoga for lunch, then traveled to the geyser. Old Faithful of California was gushing up every ten minutes due to the rain. (Normally it spews water every forty minutes!) We were fortunate because we had a shelter from the rain so we could watch her blow. Later, because of time constraints, we decided to send one bus to Merryvale Vineyards and the other to Sterling Vineyards. Wine tasting, the part of the trip (no names) most of us waited for, was here at last. I am sure everyone enjoyed this very much. (Now, if only this cork puller I bought will open Pepsi bottles.)

We all very much enjoyed the fellowship of the tours and look forward to Houston, Texas next year. Please direct your comments about the tours to Jim Owens, 1762 Stemwood Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43228, phone 1-614-876-1805 or e-mail Jim_Owens@msn.com.

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Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 4" fluted pots

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

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TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
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4" Wh/Gr No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4" Wh/Gr With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

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Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

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Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

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	Color	1	10
#2 Starter 22"L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
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Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
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			2 gal.	\$3.50	
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)			1 gal.	\$2.00	
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DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix			2 lb.	\$1.75	
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)			2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25	
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)			5.5 oz./\$3.00	12 oz./\$4.50	
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5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00



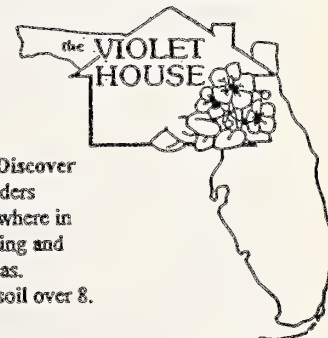
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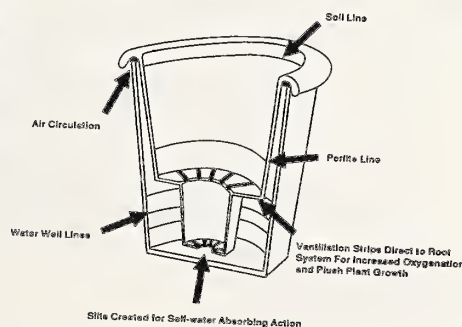
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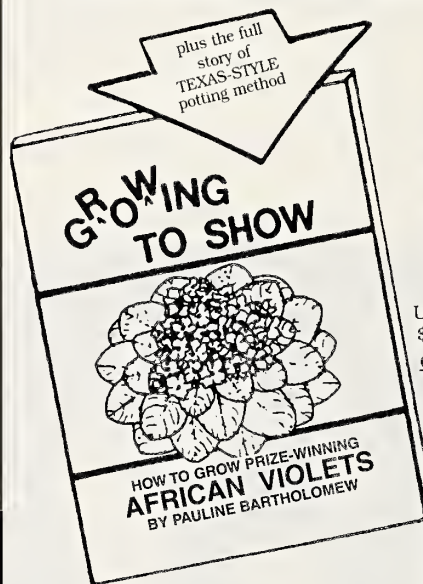
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3"-3 1/2"-4" round tubs have rolled rims

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
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PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40
4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

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wicks not included) 16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
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PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender.	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

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Dolomite Limestone			2 lbs./\$1.75
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	No. 6 Medium	1.75	3.25
		4 qts.	16 qts.
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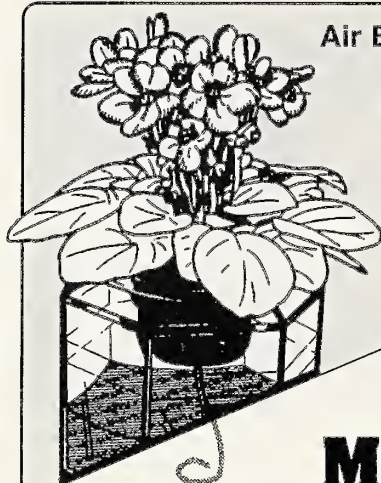
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African Violet

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September • October 1998

Volume 51

Number 5



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AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. E-mail clubs@avsa.org

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Billie Golla, 955 Mission Hills Dr., New Braunfels, TX 78130-7213.

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AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX, 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

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MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

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PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

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SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

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African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

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Number 5



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Best New Introduction
1998 AVSA National Show

Hula Hoop
2nd Best New Introduction
1998 AVSA National Show

Little Chatterbox
3rd Best New Introduction
1998 AVSA National Show

Hybridized and Grown by
 Sidney Sorano,
 Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses



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OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
 3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
 10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: jwilson941@aol.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
 922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavs@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
 1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rrumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
 19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: jtcarter@worldnet.att.net

Jane Rexilius, Publications
 5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
 1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
 2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.





President's Message

Dear AVSA Members:

This summer's extreme weather has been quite a challenge for many of our AVSA members. While many parts of the country have experienced extreme heat for a prolonged period of time, others have had to deal with flash floods and fires. One member reported a monthly electric bill of \$425 during the summer heat. For us, the most extreme was 90-mile-per-hour winds during a severe thunder storm. Damage ranged from very large trees completely uprooted, severe roof damage, radio towers bent in half, destroyed field crops for area farmers and power outages of up to four days. We hope that those suffering from the extreme heat will have had a break in the weather by the time you receive this issue of the African Violet Magazine.

I am pleased to report that Jenny Daugereau was promoted to Office Administrative Coordinator during the AVSA Convention in Sacramento. Jenny has worked in the AVSA Office in Beaumont for almost four years and is assisted by Office Secretary Tammi Gotcher. Both Jenny and Tammi are eager to assist you, our members, with your orders for AVSA products and publications, membership and other questions you may have.

The minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting in Sacramento are included in this issue of the AVM. Copies of the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting may be requested from the AVSA Office in Beaumont. Highlights of the business transacted were included in my letter in the July issue of this magazine. Many of our Committee Chairmen and Board Members have been quite busy with various AVSA projects during the last few months. Some of those projects include the annual MVL Supplement, new items from the Ways & Means Committee, additions and improvements to the AVSA Web Site, and further improvements to the computer system in the AVSA Office, to name a few. We appreciate the time our Board members devote to AVSA.

Several repairs and routine maintenance projects, such as painting and replacing sidewalks, are planned for the AVSA Office in Beaumont this fall. Donations to assist with these projects would be helpful and may be sent to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

Some of the recent additions to the AVSA Web Site include a new and improved calendar for posting coming events. Affiliates can easily post details of upcoming shows and sales directly to the Web Site. Therefore, events may often be listed on the Web Site before they appear in the AVM. The Affiliate listings on the Web Site continue to be updated. Many affiliates have found the listing on the Web Site to be helpful in getting information to prospective new members. If information is not listed about your affiliate, just send a message to <clubs@avs.org>. Keep watching the Web Site for the Christmas Store, a new AVSA Shopping Cart, and a brand new Screen Saver featuring photos of many of your favorite African violets.

In addition to all of the information offered on the AVSA Web Site, there are several discussion forums on the Internet devoted to African violets and the other gesneriads. See the listing on page 45 in this magazine for the specific Web addresses.

Now is the time to start preparing for the 1999 AVSA Convention in Houston next April. It should be an outstanding convention with a variety of activities for African violet enthusiasts. The show is always one of the highlights of the convention. Why not select some plants now to start grooming for the convention show?

Happy growing and showing,

Esther Edwards Wells

Esther Edwards Wells
AVSA President

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net



Recent thunderstorms have given us a break from the dry, hot summer down here in Texas, but the plants in my office have really suffered. I've heard from many of our members who are looking forward to the cooling of autumn, as are their violets, and my guilt over the condition of my own plants has lessened a bit.

For those of you who have never been to the AVSA Office in Beaumont, you may have an opportunity to tour the building and some notable landmarks in this area if you come to the AVSA convention in Houston next April. Tentative plans are underway to bring a tour to Beaumont, (about an hour from Houston) and if my plants don't look a whole lot better, they'll be moving to my house for a few days when the tour is scheduled.

In this issue, look for more of those beautiful plants from this year's convention. I'm so glad **Winston Goretsky** agreed to photograph our winners, and if we're lucky, he'll help us out again in the future. I also hope more of you will follow **Patt Harris'** example and submit slides of plants you've hybridized or grown, to be featured in the AVM (see Patt's hybrid, 'Edee', in full color on page 33).

On page 20, treat yourself to a very interesting, often amusing, article by our "AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look" columnist, **David Buttram**. I know you'll enjoy a glimpse of my good friend David's adventures as he crossed the country for the past 13 years, interviewing our commercial growers.

Those of you who missed the convention have an opportunity to read information from one of the interesting presentations given in Sacramento. **Dave Neal**, of Dyna-Gro explains "African Violet Nutrition (and plants in general)", Part 1, on page 34 of this issue. Watch for Part 2 of this article in the November/December AVM.

Even if you attended the convention in Sacramento, you'll want to read **Ruth Goeke's** article on page 50. Ruth goes into detail about the lovely plants exhibited in her description of the "1998 AVSA Convention Commercial Display Tables".

For those of you interested in the Internet, read **Ellen Wass Beckerman's** article, "'Net'tiquette, The Language of the Internet" on page 49. Also, on page 45, **Lynda Welchel** announces a new Internet mail group, the African Violet Connection, where enthusiasts get together to share AV information and ideas. There are several of these informative mail groups out there, and we've provided a list, with addresses, at the bottom of the same page.

Kent and Joyce Stork address the problem of necks, in For Beginners, (page 14), and on page 7 be sure to read the announcement from **Hortense and Sundown Pittman**, explaining why they've scaled down their commercial business.

Our friends at Verilux have a new toll-free number: (888) 544 - 4865. Contact them with questions, and see their ad on page 55 of this issue.

Starting a new club is a lot of work and an adventure. Two of our members want to get a new club started in the far west suburbs of Chicago, IL, and are having an informal get-together in Naperville on September 18. Get in touch with **Dixie Williams** (630) 904 - 1698, or **Andrea Worrell** (630) 515 - 1151 if you're interested in joining.

I recently received a new video tape from our friends at the **Tanzania Wildlife Fund**, and the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group. This brief video shows the terrific success in the effort to save the Eastern Arc rain forests in Tanzania, native home to African violets. AVSA continues to support this worthwhile cause, providing a complimentary ad in each issue of the AVM. TWF thanks all of our members who have contributed to the success of their conservation projects and will continue to provide us with information of the *Saintpaulia's* homeland as it becomes available.

If you have an idea for an article, or a topic you would like to see covered in the AVM, please let me know. Or, if you remember a past article that you feel would be of particular interest to our newer members, I'd like to hear your suggestions.

New Items Offered By AVSA



New Design Watch (sm)\$30.00
New Design Watch (lg)\$30.00



AVSA Mugs\$10.00



AVSA Computer Mouse Pads\$7.50
Orders of 5 or more\$7.00 ea.



AVSA Letter Opener\$3.00
Orders of 5 or more\$2.50 ea.



AVSA Pin\$6.00
Orders of 5 or more ..\$5.00 ea.

Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

CONVENTION REVISITED

Now, more discussion on the Sacramento convention commercial display tables, beginning with the Best New Introductions. These were all semiminatures grown by Sidney Sorano and exhibited in Lyndon Lyon's display. Best New Introduction was 'Ms. Smartypants', a chimera with green, rosy-pink and white blooms growing atop emerald green small-growing foliage. This is a very cute and unusual cultivar. 2nd Best New Introduction was 'Hula Hoop', an endearing plant. It has blue and white blooms that are also chimeral. These abundant blooms are produced atop very neat, good-forming, green, tailored foliage. The 3rd Best New Introduction was 'Little Chatterbox', a sweet little plant sporting dark pink blooms with blue fantasy above dark green foliage. Sidney also exhibited miniature and semiminature plants with uniquely colored blooms that should strengthen the red spectra in these classes. The large blooms were beautiful dark shades of fuchsia, purplish-red and burgundy, some with thin white edges and some with beautiful "sparkle" in the bloom. Watch for them next spring!

Rob's Mini-o-lets' table featured several of his very good, reliable introductions. One of the newer ones particularly caught my eye: 'Rob's Twinkle Blue'. It is a very tiny-growing miniature, with dark, almost black-green foliage that barely reaches three inches at maturity. The blooms are equally intriguing, being medium to dark royal blue, bell-shaped blooms. The value of this plant as a show plant is questionable as its foliage simply does not appear to overlap well, but for the hobbyist and for landscape and terrarium plantings it should be outstanding!

GOIN' COCONUTS AT CONVENTION

If you're a regular reader of my column, you'll remember Darryl Hoover from California, my guest columnist from March 1997. I was finally able to meet Darryl in Sacramento. During one of our conversations he gave me a brick of coir fibre he has been experimenting with. Coir is made from coconut husks, and is used as a peat substitute. It has the

great advantage of not compacting, as does peat, although it settles much quicker. Darryl has been using coir for several months and reports his plants never looked better, which is saying a lot for him!

Several of us on the AOL African Violet board are now testing coir, thanks to Darryl, including Steve Covolo and Carol Allegretti, both from the Chicago area. Each of us is mixing the coir a little differently, some using bone meal as a bloom booster in the mix, some adding charcoal, with all of us mixing in varying amounts of perlite. Because we're trying the coir in different areas of the country, with differing water systems and climates, this should prove interesting. More updates will appear in future columns, and as always, I welcome your input!

ONE MORE CONVENTION NOTE

Byron Borck, the very energetic convention co-chairman, had an interesting observation about the controversial 'Precious Pink' problem. If you remember, I have had great difficulty growing this great cultivar, purchasing plants in full bloom and never having them bloom again! His comment was that because of this, a cultural problem was indicated as opposed to a "cultivar" problem. Byron's observation has proven absolutely correct, as I now have two absolutely perfect 'Precious Pink's growing in a terrarium that simply refuse to stop putting up blooms. I have yet to time them to get them to a show, but when I do, you'll be the first to know!

A RETRACTION

In the May column, I erroneously informed the readership regarding use of African violets as the focal point/dominant feature in designs. I thank Norah Otto of Nederland, Colorado for bringing this to my attention. Rather than try to put it in my own words, a quote from pages 68-69 of the *Handbook for Judges, Exhibitors and Growers* seems in order:

"...African violet blossoms or plants should be the highlight of the design. In flower arrangements the blossoms should be emphasized and readily apparent in the design; in

plant arrangements the African violets should be the focal point."

I maintain my original statement in the column that beginners do well by attempting to make the African violet the dominant feature of a design. As they become more familiar with design and its intricacies, this should become less of a consideration to them.

SEASONAL TIPS

Fall is an extremely active growing period for our violets. Now is a good time to assess damage done to them over the summer by irregular watering (hope you enjoyed your vacations!), too much heat, and fertilizing irregularities. With the small ones, a row or two of leaves can be removed and complete repotting done. This will get your plant off to a fresh, healthy start, encouraging a good, healthy root system that will yield lots of blooms in late fall and again in spring.

This is also a good time to put down leaves that will put up plantlets during the winter, just in time for transplanting on those cold winter days during your favorite football/basketball game, movie, or Boston Pops concert. I can't think of too much else in life that has the advantage of raising spirits and serving as inspiration more than "playing" with the violets on a blustery, grey day!

Finally, commercials are anxious to get rid of their current stock to make way for their 1999 offerings. Many are discounting their plants, so turn to the advertising pages in this issue and check out the bargains. Small ones purchased now will grow rapidly enough over winter that they will put on quite a display of blooms next spring.

THE BLACK AND WHITE OF IT

One of my local club's programs featured two of our pre-

Hortense and Sundown Pittman wish to announce, with much regret, that Hortense's African Violets will no longer be shipping plants. We have been active for over twenty years as commercial members of AVSA.

On November 3, 1997, we moved to a rural area about 35 miles north of Dallas, Texas. We had built a new home in the country and looked forward to growing violets in the area. The move was a bit hard on us, but the violets survived the 300 mile move from San Antonio. We added a couple of additional 8 ft. stands for seedlings, and everything was looking great, or so we thought.

In a couple of months, we realized that we were in trouble. The violets refused to grow. We began to check our soil mix and the pH, after seeing violet symptoms that were totally unknown to us. Could it be the great-tasting water? We requested an analysis report from our Rural Water Supply Corporation and were dismayed to learn that our water was indeed the problem.

The water had a high amount of sodium, much too much for African violets and many other varieties of plants to grow

miere growers discussing how they grow their violets. The discussion proved to be informative, enlightening and entertaining! The first panelist was Sue Hill, a veteran grower and winner of many Best in Show awards. The second was Gene Loveland, also a repeat Best in Show award winner including the 1986 national convention show. No sooner did Sue finish her excellent presentation than Gene got up and contradicted everything Sue said. And when Gene would do that, Sue would retaliate with a contradiction of what Gene said. This was done in a polite, congenial manner, nevertheless, this tete-a-tete stood out in my mind.

Here were two superlative growers, both with enough credentials to impress top brass at the Pentagon, and even they couldn't agree, yet they both lay claim to repeated success!

The point? In our world we are often looking for the simplest, quickest answer. We want everything in black and white. We simply don't want to admit there are a lot of shades of grey and nothing is absolute. This is true even in the world of African violets, as evidenced by the program given by Sue & Gene, and almost any conversation that is ever held by violet growers.

The answer? Remain a skeptic, always questioning ideas and continually searching for new ones. Find a system that works for you and your growing environment, and stick with it. Make changes slowly, deliberately and over time, experimenting with a few plants at a time. Then, once the results are seen, make necessary changes to your entire program. Most of all, understand what works for you won't work for everyone, and that what works for everyone might not work for you. First and foremost, remember the maxim I consider to be crucial: "If it isn't broke, don't fix it!" We'll talk again in November!

successfully. We explored several alternatives. We could drill a deep well, but it would come from the same sands as our water supply. We could drill a shallow well and hope it wouldn't go dry or pick up the sodium. Rain water isn't always assured, and stock tanks on our place sometimes go dry in the summer.

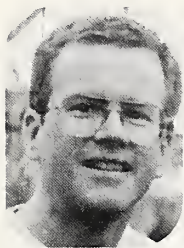
After a call, our friend, Ken Froboese, who owns and operates greenhouses in Boerne, TX, picked up hundreds of our plants before their demise and will be growing some of the seedlings for us.

We will still do some hybridizing in a small way at our new home, and look forward to becoming hobbyists instead of commercial growers. Our new varieties will be available through a few friends who do ship.

We want to thank our many friends who have grown our hybrids over the years. Many of you have been very encouraging during this transition, and we are grateful for your support and look forward to seeing you in Houston for the AVSA convention. Our best wishes for your happy growing.

Hortense and Sundown Pittman

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

I've received two phone calls this week from new growers asking how they could learn more about African violets and if there were any good books I could recommend on the subject. My answer is always the same — join AVSA and get the *African Violet Magazine*. For half the price of a hard-cover book, you receive up-to-date, useful information from other knowledgeable growers as well as color photos of the latest varieties and sources for getting these varieties. Since you're reading this, I'm obviously "preaching to the converted". The second thing I told these callers, however, might also be said to some of you — join your local violet club! The very best way of learning is by talking with other violet growers, face to face. I've been a member of one local club for 22 years and still can learn something from most meetings.

As is always the case, questions by phone are nearly always willingly listened to (though I can't promise a satisfactory answer) when calls are made during our business hours, since we can work and talk at the same time. I can't promise a reply by mail or e-mail, since this demands too much of our scarce time. For some basic cultural information, articles, and "how to" lessons, you might want to check out the "culture corner" of our web-site, found at www.robsviolet.com.

QUESTION: *What ingredients do you include in your potting medium?*

ANSWER: Our soil recipe is as follows: 1/2 Pro-Mix BX (a peat and perlite mix), and 1/2 coarse vermiculite, with about 3/4 cup #10 charcoal per 5 gallons of the soil mix, adding enough horticultural limestone (if necessary) to achieve a pH of about 6.8. Whether this is the ideal soil mix for *you*, however, is another question. What works for us may not be best for you. This will depend upon a number of other factors, most importantly, your watering methods. A simple rule is as follows: *the wetter you plan on keeping your plants, the lighter (more porous, less water-retentive) the soil mix should be.*

For example, if you plan on top-watering your violets and letting them dry before watering again, then a less porous, "heavier" mix can be used. If you plan on watering with capillary mats, a lighter mix is needed, especially if the matting is kept constantly wet. If plants are wick-watered, a very light mix is necessary since the soil mix will be kept very wet nearly all of the time. In the extreme, plants can be grown in an extremely porous medium, like gravel, as might be the case when grown hydroponically.

To "lighten" a soil mix, a greater proportion of the mix should contain ingredients that "break up" the mix itself (so you don't end up with one big soggy mass of soil), and/or retain less water themselves. Ingredients like vermiculite and perlite are commonly added for this purpose. Perlite will retain less water than vermiculite, so will do more to lighten the mix, as will using coarser (larger pieces) grades of either of these. Other ingredients that sometimes are used include sand, styrofoam beads, ground brick or clay shards, to name a few — basically anything that loosens the soil mix and retains less water than the peat moss. Adding "soil" (i.e. garden loam or topsoil), on the other hand, would make the mix less porous and more water-retentive. Any mix containing more than an insignificant amount of "soil" in the mix would not be recommended for wick-watering unless the mix also contained a large proportion of perlite, or similar material. Such a "heavier" mix would be better used when plants are top-watered since the grower would be able to water still-moist plants less than others.

QUESTION: *I know very little about African violets, so this question might seem silly. Recently, I started a plant from a normal-looking, green leaf. When the plantlet appeared, all of its leaves were white in color. How common is an African violet with such white leaves?*

ANSWER: This isn't a silly question at all, especially from someone still new to our hobby. A violet with white in its leaves is called "variegated". Depending upon the variety, the amount of variegation can be scarcely visible or may be

so great as to make a leaf nearly entirely white. Unfortunately, many of these varieties can lose their variegation as they age, or when grown under warm conditions. I suspect that the leaf that you rooted was taken from a plant that was originally variegated but had lost its variegation and turned green. Genetically, however, that leaf is still variegated and will produce variegated plantlets when used for propagation. In fact, it's usually wise to use the "greener" leaves of a variegated variety for propagation, since these leaves are often more vigorous than the very white ones from the same plant and will produce more plantlets more quickly. These white plantlets will likely also eventually turn green if grown under the same conditions as the original.

QUESTION: *I'd like to know why some of my violets grow by spreading out and others are growing upright like trees. These drop their bottom leaves and grow taller. Is there anything that I need to do to look after them?*

ANSWER: There are a few possibilities. If "spreading out" means that the plant is becoming wider by producing more crowns and leaves, there are two possible reasons. The first is that the violet has been allowed to develop more than one crown (growing point in the center of leaves). This happens when "suckers" — the small, secondary crowns growing from the leaf axils, are not removed and are allowed to develop into larger crowns. If this is the case, divide the plant so that each of the new plants has only one crown. Pot each of these plants separately into their own pots. In the future, remove suckers as soon as it becomes obvious that they are not blossom buds. The plant will bloom better and grow more attractively if this is done on a regular basis. The other possibility is that the violet is a "trailing" variety, that, by its nature, freely produces additional crowns. The difference is that trailing varieties produce additional crowns without harming blooming potential or the display of foliage. Most good trailing varieties will produce this growth in the form of "runners" that often have a vine-like or crawling habit. The additional crowns on trailing varieties need not be removed.

As for those violets growing "upright like trees", this is usually the result of not repotting frequently enough. Violets are no different than other plants—as new leaves are produced, older leaves are lost. As the older, lower, leaves are removed, a "neck" (bare stem) develops over time. If they are not repotted on a regular basis, the neck will become more and more visible. Nearly all violets should be repotted about twice a year. Repotting doesn't necessarily mean a bigger pot! Use only a pot the size of the plant's root system, and not larger. Repotting means removing some of the older soil (and a few old roots), lowering the plant in its pot, and adding fresh soil, in the process burying the neck. The lowest row of leaves on the repotted violet should lay flat on top

of the pot rim. Don't worry about "shocking" the plant—if repotting is done regularly, then not much of a neck will need to be buried and not much of the old soil needs to be removed, so that your violet will barely notice that anything's been done to it.

QUESTION: *I have some violets as well as a few orchids. My problem is aphids, which I think came in on some mini roses from a local nursery. I'd like to get some more violets, but I'd like to get rid of this problem first.*

ANSWER: Aphids aren't usually a common problem in violets, though they have been known to appear in a collection on a rare occasion, usually when brought in on another plant. They are usually light green, sometimes black, and have soft pear-shaped bodies that are easily visible to the naked eye. They usually can be seen on the undersides of leaves or on blossom stems, where the plant tissue is softer and more vulnerable. Because they are easily visible, they can usually be easily eliminated with quick treatment of the affected plants.

Only twice (in over 20 years) have we found aphids in our violet collection. In one instance, they came in on some newly acquired orchids and were quickly eliminated by spraying the affected plants with Knox-Out at the recommended dilution. One thorough spraying did the trick. There are a number of insecticides that can be effective on aphids — malathion, diazanon, or many pyrethrin sprays. As always with such chemicals, *read the label*, and follow all the usual precautions to protect yourself from exposure. In the second instance, we found large numbers of aphids on a number of *Streptocarpus* that we had purchased at a show. In this case the numbers were too many, and the plants not valuable enough, so we simply tossed all of the affected plants into the compost pile. They could have been saved, but doing so wasn't worth the time and wasn't worth the risk to our health.

QUESTION: *I have a long window-box like container into which I'd like to plant a number of violets. Can I do this?*

ANSWER: This is a question that has been asked recently by a few of our customers at the shop. Yes, African violets can be potted into such a container, but it certainly would be far from ideal, and might present some problems, particularly for novice growers. Violets like to have a "pot" just large enough for their root system, since the excess soil will tend to stay too wet and can lead to root rot. This would be the case with such a large planter, even if many violets were potted together. Violets also will grow best when given their own "space". To keep them from being "overpotted", they would need to be planted quite close together, meaning that neighboring plants would tend to grow into each other,

(Question Box continued on bottom of page 10)

A: I

I Hoped I Was Wrong

by Hal McKain • Lamoni, IA

I made a list of the number of African violets I had growing around the house. I added up the list, re-added the numbers and said to myself, "I hope I'm wrong!" How could I have made the same mistake I had enjoyed watching other growers make? Sure enough, I had also let the numbers sneak up on me. It was 411! Wow!

As a retiree I have gotten a lot of satisfaction in raising and giving away African violets. I have made a habit of giving away an average of one each day.

One of my motivators is having a drawing for students and employees at Graceland College. The winners have expressed so much appreciation for the blooming plants that it makes me to want to continue.

One occasion made me laugh, after a tough football game which Graceland had won. I saw one of our great big lineman walking off the field, his head was down, his uniform dirty and sweaty. I wanted to help him

feel better so I put my arm around his shoulder and asked him how he was doing. I was expecting a reply about the game or how he was feeling. Instead, he said, "Do you think I'll ever win an African violet?" I was so amused I told him I'd just give him one!

Another occasion stands out in my mind. On the death of one of my close friends I gave his wife an African violet. When I saw her a couple of years later she said the plant was blooming profusely and that she thought of me every day because the plant was on the kitchen table. She called it 'Tom's Violet', after her husband. Needless to say, I was deeply moved.

It appears that my experiences with African violets have become an important part of a meaningful life for me. Who would have ever thought that so much satisfaction, enjoyment, happiness and excitement would revolve around African violets?

Come to think of it, all of us!



1998 LSAVC STATE CONVENTION

by Dolores Gibbs
Convention Chairman

The time is almost here, and all members of the First Austin AVS are hard at work to make your 1998 LSAVC Convention a success. The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn South, off Interstate 35, Austin, Texas, October 29 - November 1, 1998. This hotel has been remodeled in anticipation of the 1999 opening of the nearby new Austin airport.

We have two very good presentations for you. AVSA First Vice President, Bill Foster, will show us how he creates such wonderful design entries. Our second speaker will be commercial grower, Ken Froboese, who will give a presen-

tation on growing plants for show.

Susan Storey and Joyce Kimbro are co-chairmen for our show. Our Judge's School will be taught by Sue Ramser, Teacher and AVSA Master Judge. Donations for convention awards may be sent to Iris Scott, 11840 Rimrock Trail, Austin, TX 78737.

The public is invited on October 30th, 3pm - 6pm, and October 31, 10am - 6pm.

On behalf of the members of First Austin AVS, we invite you to join us - and remember, "African Violets - A Capitol Idea!"



(Question Box continued from page 9)

their leaves competing for the same space. Violets crowded this way won't develop to their full potential — foliage will likely be smaller, weaker, and poorly formed.

If you would like to display violets in such a container, I would suggest keeping them in their own individual pots, and placing (not planting) each into the box, being sure to space them far enough apart so that they will have a chance

to develop properly. If a more "full" look is desired, trailing varieties might be the answer, since they are naturally spreading plants, and can be grown to fill this large space more easily. In time, trailers might actually be trained to fill the box and crawl over its sides, something the non-trailing varieties will not do.

Named of columnist replying is in bold print.

Shows and Judges



Bill Foster
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
(972) 279-5993

I hope you and your plants survived the summer heat! I don't know about your area, but it was a hot, dry summer in Texas. Have you purchased your new Handbook? If you purchased it at the AVSA convention or ordered it prior to May, be sure to check to see that you have received the corrected pages. You should have received pages 45, 46, and 69 through 74 to replace the original pages of the revision. If you have not received them, call or write the AVSA office and request them.

Are you planning to register a judging school? If so, please refer to rules on page 87 of the Handbook and try to adhere to them. The registrar for the schools is Elinor Skelton. Her address is listed inside the cover of the *African Violet Magazine*. The cost for registering a school is \$15.

I promised that we were not going to start messing up our new Handbook, and I am already breaking that promise. An omission has been detected! Under Interpretive Plant Arrangements, page 68, you may want to insert the word "blooming" before "African violet plants". We all know this, but there are many people who look for loopholes. If we do not make this official by adding the word "blooming", someone will surely send in a schedule stating that a non-blooming plant may be used and would point out that the Handbook did not state a blooming plant as a requirement.

I was teaching a school recently and was lecturing from the book. I noticed a comma missing somewhere. I did not make a note of it, so if you see a comma missing feel free to insert one! Here are some questions received by mail or discussed at the Judges' Breakfast in Sacramento:

Q. Is it legal to enter a plant in one of the decorative ceramic self-watering pots?

A. Yes, we allow self-watering pots in the regular classes so there is no reason why they could not be used as a decorative or novel container if they meet the requirements stated in the schedule.

Q. Should a trailing species African violet be entered in the class designated for standard trailers?

A. No! ALL species should be entered in the class designated for species. However, trailing species in the class for species, or from AVSA collections may be considered for Best Trailer.

Q. Are we required to have the Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges as a part of the Educational Exhibit in order to receive full credit?

A. No! This has been discussed before. It certainly may be included, but it is not a requirement.

Q. In a recent show, a dish garden was entered in the interpretive plant arrangement class. The panel of judges gave it a blue ribbon. It was pointed out to them that it was a dish garden. They had it moved to the dish garden class, but then discovered the exhibitor already had an entry in that class. The blue ribbon was then removed and no award was given. Was this correct?

A. Yes, but it took a long time to get there! In the first place, the exhibitor should have known the difference between a plant arrangement and a dish garden; secondly, 'entries' should have caught the error. Since it survived the first two checkpoints, the judges should have recognized that it WAS NOT a plant arrangement and then should have written on the entry card, "does not conform to requirements for a plant arrangement" and "eliminated from consideration for an award". Had this been done, time could have been saved.

Q. When judging a show in a mall with limited space, should points be deducted if the only focal point is awards to be given?

A. Not if the club has done a nice job of *making* it a focal point. In a large number of shows the focal point is the awards table. As judges, we must remember that it is becoming more difficult to find places in which to hold shows. We need to take this into consideration and remember that some of the qualifications of a judge are *fairness, tact and kindness*. The column is getting a little lengthy. We'll talk later.

Please note that **Billie Golla** is the new AVSA Schedule Approver. You will find her address in the front of the *African Violet Magazine*. Please join me in extending a great big **THANK YOU** to **Bob Green** for the many years of time and effort he gave to this job.

Also, please welcome **Rose Howlett**, Oklahoma, **L.T. Ozio**, Louisiana, **Harriette Poss**, California, and **Martha Turner**, Texas, as new Master Judges.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

As we come into the fall season, you might consider trying a few hybridization crosses to produce some new seed for next spring. To help readers plan their crosses and predict what kind of flowers the offspring might produce, this month's column will repeat a list of dominant and recessive genetic traits for various flower characteristics and colors.

Dominant Trait

Pansy-shaped flowers
Double flowers
Semidouble flowers
Geneva edges
Raspberry edges
Frilled/ruffled petals
Any flower color
Blue/purple color
Non-coral colors
Fantasy patterns
Bicolors
Thumbprint pattern
Mottled flower color

Recessive Trait

Star-shaped flowers
Semidouble/single flowers
Single flowers
Solid edges
Solid edges
Plain petals
White flowers
Non-blue colors
Coral colors
Solid colors
Solid colors
Solid colors
Solid colors

Q: *I have seedlings from a self-pollinated cross of 'Golden Threads'. Some of the seedlings have pink flowers. How is this possible? I thought a cross of white x white would only give white-flowered offspring.*

A: If you examine the table of genetic traits given above, you are correct that a cross of white, a genetic recessive with itself, should have only given white offspring. However, 'Golden Threads' is not strictly a "white" flowered plant, having some yellow streaking in the flowers. It therefore shows the dominant trait of "any flower color". While a pink-flowered offspring is not one I would have normally expected from this cross, many of the "yellows" appear to be fantasy flowers with colors such as pink in their back-

ground. It would seem that your pink offspring is showing up as a "non-fantasy" or recessive trait. I would predict that most of your offspring from the self-pollination of 'Golden Threads' would be white/yellow fantasy flowers with a few non-fantasy or solid colored offspring showing up as recessives.

Q: *I have a cross of 'Blushing Ivory' x a purple/white flowered seedling. Most of the F1 generation plants are purples. How can I get the ivory color of 'Blushing Ivory' back?*

A: It would appear that the ivory color or pattern is a genetic recessive since it seems to have disappeared in the F1, or first generation. You should be able to get the ivory color back by back-crossing an F1 plant to 'Blushing Ivory' or breeding two of the best F1 plants together to get an F2 generation. The backcross should produce more ivory-colored offspring (up to 50%) but may reinforce some undesirable genetic traits. The F1 x F1 cross will give a lower number of ivory offspring (up to 25%) but gives you the advantage of mixing the traits more completely. Depending on what your goals are with the cross, either situation should work. Good luck!

Q: *How is it possible for a cross of two solid green plants to produce a number of variegated babies?*

A: Since you mention that several variegated babies were produced, we can rule out mutation as the source. It would appear that your seed parent is really a variegated plant but doesn't have enough of the mutated chloroplasts to have the variegation actually show in its foliage. When the seeds are produced, the ratio of normal-to-variegated chloroplasts can shift, sometimes placing a high number of variegated chloroplasts in the egg cell. When this occurs, the offspring will sometimes have enough of the mutated

chloroplasts to show variegated foliage. Since Tommie Lou and Crown variegation types are inherited maternally (only through the seed parent), I suspect that your seed parent plant must come from a maternal line of variegated plants. Keep this information in your hybridization records. You may want to produce variegated offspring again and could do so using the same apparently non-variegated plant as the seed parent.

Q: In a previous column, you mentioned variegation appearing as streaks of color in some leaves on one side of a plant. Could this possibly be a type of chimera?

A: Yes, this type of variegation is often the result of a partial chimera. Only a few of the cells of the growing center or apical bud have the mutation; therefore, only parts of the leaves will show the variegation. Because this is a chimera, it might be possible to produce a plant with variegation in all its leaves by using suckers or blossom stalk cuttings, the same methods used to reproduce plants with pinwheel or chimera flowers. This method might be used to

"capture" a new kind of variegation and stabilize it. If you have plants that show variegation on only one side, try taking some suckers or blossom stalk cuttings and see if the variegation can be reproduced. Given how popular variegated foliage is, any new type that might be stabilized in this way could be very popular.

Q: A baby on a variegated leaf appears to be solid rosy-red in color and doesn't appear to have any green areas. Can this baby survive on its own?

A: Generally the plant must have some green areas in order to survive. The green areas contain the chloroplasts which help the plant manufacture food using light energy. If the plant lacks chloroplasts, as evidenced by a lack of green color, it usually dies. Let the baby stay on the mother leaf as long as possible. There may be some chloroplasts under the "red" color. If the baby does survive, it will likely be a very slow grower and be reluctant to flower. However, try to keep it alive and see what happens. This sounds like a very interesting foliage color and may well be worth the extra effort.

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM 1 APRIL TO 31 MAY 1998

Long Island AVS, Long Island, NY	\$10.00
Robert Zubrycki, New York, NY	\$2.00
Sandy Shaughnessy, Wilmore, KY	\$10.00
AOL AVC apply towards technology drive	
Carol Allegretti, Barrington, IL	\$10.00
J. Robert Moore, Milwaukee, WI	\$2.00
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Apply towards Nell-Sue Tyson Memorial	
First Denton AVS, Denton, TX	\$20.00
Norah Otto, Nederland, CO	\$15.00
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Ethel O. Spurlin, Mililani, HI	\$25.00
In fond memory of a dear friend and a charter member of the Hawaii AVS, Edith Shigeta	
Delaware AVS in lieu of travel expense for judges	\$25.00
Laura Shannon, Judith Smith, Enid Branson, Susan Hanna and Kurt Eckart from Philadelphia AVS	
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Barbara Jones, Bettie Roth and Judi Criswell from AVS Springfield, PA.	
Delaware AVS in lieu of travel expense for judge	\$10.00
Kay Lyons, AVS Lower Bucks County, PA.	
AVSA Executive Committee and Board of Directors	\$90.00
In memory of Albert Miller, father of Ron and father-in-law to Ann Miller, Spring, TX	
Michael Myers, Morristown, TN	\$7.00
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In fond memory of Edith Shigeta

A charter member of Hawaii AVS and a dear friend

Manikhode Bounpheng, Paris, France	\$10.00
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Total \$1,818.00

For Beginners



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

"Is it normal to have a neck on a violet, or am I doing something wrong?" That's a question that we were asked recently. It's an interesting question, because a neck is normal, but not desirable. Poor growing can speed the development of a neck, but a neck can be one of the easier problems to solve in the process of caring for African violets.

WHAT IS AN AFRICAN VIOLET NECK?

A neck is the stalk that gradually develops between the lowest row of leaves and the top of the soil. It is fairly thick. On a standard violet the neck would be similar in diameter to one of your fingers or maybe even your thumb. The more slowly the neck develops over time, the thicker it will be.

When violets are growing in excellent light, the neck may become coiled around and around under the foliage and may be almost hidden by sagging outer leaves. When growing in poorer light, especially when the light comes only from one side of the plant, the neck will be more visible as the plant leans toward the light. In a worst-case scenario the violet's crown will actually hang from an extended neck. Joyce once insisted on repotting a violet that was hanging in a window in a friend's home before they sat down to lunch. The neck was at least twelve inches long, hanging well below the bottom of the pot. The tiny crown was trying desperately to face upward. It had a will to live though, and eventually bloomed, about six months after repotting.

The exterior of the neck will have many ridges from where leaves were once attached. When the leaf is removed, the tissue calluses over with a tough brown surface that protects the neck from pathogens. If leaves were allowed to wither and were not removed, there would be paper-dry membranes still clinging to the neck. Sometimes the neck will have a number of tiny plants trying to grow along its length. Wherever the neck makes contact with the soil, it may have some root development.

HOW DOES THE NECK HAPPEN?

Violet necks occur because of the loss of lower (older)

leaves. All new growth comes from the crown of the plant. As new growth occurs, each previous row of leaves continues to mature and age. Once the leaves have aged to a point where they are no longer efficiently producing energy for the plant, they begin to lose green color. They soften and begin to sag. Eventually they die, becoming completely brown and limp. If the leaf were not removed at this point, it would shrivel and dry on the stem.

Many advanced growers remove aging leaves at the very first sign of color loss. Allowing a leaf to remain until it has softened and become limp increases the possibility of rot developing. Mostly however, we remove aging leaves for cosmetic reasons. African violets do not look attractive when there are dead or dying leaves present.

CAN A NECK BE AVOIDED?

Necks are the natural result of an African violet's growth. They are inevitable. But it is possible to slow their development.

When violets are grown under near-perfect cultural conditions, new leaves develop in very close proximity to previous leaves. Show-winning violets often have many rows of leaves extending from a crown that is only an inch or so above the pot. Those leaves can be stripped away to reveal a very thick neck that almost resembles a miniature pineapple.

When violets are grown in poor cultural conditions, especially when the light is inadequate, the neck will become elongated and much thinner. This is because new leaves are developing farther apart from each other. Plants have a tendency to grow toward better light which causes the leaf axils to be farther apart. In violets, this results in the quicker development of a neck. It also results in leaves with longer stems (petioles), gaps between leaves, and a tendency to grow upward or toward the light source.

The best way to slow the development of a neck is to provide bright and even light directly over plants. Violets are also far more likely to grow compactly when they are grown in cool conditions. Temperatures in the lower and middle 60s

(Fahrenheit) will provide significantly more compact growth, almost to the point of being too compact a temperature of 72 degrees (Fahrenheit) is generally considered to be the optimum for African violets.

If violets are to be grown in a window, they must be extremely close to the window. Choose a window at which the inside air temperature stays fairly even. Direct sunlight often results in conditions that are too hot. Violets also must be turned weekly (or daily, if possible) to give all sides even exposure to the light.

Most advanced growers use fluorescent lights in order to produce desirable growth. The light tubes need to be fairly close (approximately twelve inches) to the top of the plants. The lights need to be on for up to fourteen hours a day. Plants grown on the edge of the lighted shelf will often begin to tilt in a manner similar to window-grown violets. These should also be turned regularly to expose all sides of the plant to the brightest light available.

HOW TO REPOT A NECK

Ideally, violets with necks will be repotted as soon as the necks are evident. If you can see a neck, even a short one, it is time to act!

It is best to wait until violets are just a bit dry before attempting to repot. If they are watered weekly, do the repotting just before they would be watered again. If violets are on a constant watering system, take them off of it for several days before repotting. Dry plants are less brittle and leaves will be less likely to snap off unexpectedly.

It is necessary to remove any leaves that are aging. Break away lower leaves that are faded in color, are marred by spots or cuts, or that are wilting. Make sure that the leaf separation occurs at the stalk so that no stem is left. Don't be afraid to choose too many. Leaves that are aging will fade more quickly during the stress of the transplant. Only strong, healthy leaves endure this process well. Leaving old leaves will mean that you will have to repot again quite soon.

The leaf removal will expose even more of a neck than was present before. The entire neck must be buried in fresh soil. This is NOT done by using a larger or deeper pot! Ideally the pot should be one-third the diameter of the leaf span and no deeper than about four inches (violet roots do not grow deep). If a violet show plant is nine inches across, judges would expect it to be in a three-inch pot. Anticipating that your repotted plant will grow quickly, you can use a pot that is larger than normally recommended if it is likely that the violet will soon reach the ideal size ratio. If your violet was thriving in the previous pot, just clean it out and use it again.

Most of the above can be done before your violet is removed from its original pot. To do the actual repotting, lift the plant out of the old pot. If it is firmly stuck in the pot, tap or squeeze the pot to loosen it. Another effective method is to slip one's fingers (palm down) around the main stem of

the plant to secure the soil,. Then, turning the pot upside down, tap the edge of the pot on a hard surface, allowing the plant to drop into your hand as it comes loose from the pot.

Next, gently scrape the callused tissue off the exposed neck. Doing this will allow new roots to form more quickly, as they will not have that hard barrier to grow through. We use the dull side of a knife for this task.

Then, cut away the bottom of the root ball, removing enough to make it possible to set the entire neck into the pot. The bottom row of leaves should be even with, or slightly below, the top of the pot. The crown should be centered. Fill in the top with fresh soil. Be sure to use a light mix that will make rapid root development easy! Don't be tempted to pack the soil down! Finally, give it a good watering. You may have to add a little more soil at this point, since water will cause some settling.

What if you have to cut away the entire root ball to bury the neck? Then cut away some stalk too, so that the remaining stem is only about an inch and half long. Fill your pot with fresh loose soil and water it. Then set the plant into the pot with the stem centered in the moist soil.

Disturbing the roots has the potential to shock the plant which results in rapid wilting. To avoid this when repotting, it may help to put the entire plant into a clear container that will maintain high humidity during the rerooting process. The leaves will not lose moisture into this high humidity and will be less likely to suffer. They are usually thriving in two to four weeks and can return to their normal location.

What about the flowers? If your plant has open blossoms, or even buds above the foliage, you might as well remove them. They rarely enjoy the surprise of the transplant and usually fade quickly. Besides that, repotted violets need to direct all of their energy into root growth for a few weeks.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE SOIL

Soil is always important, but your mix is especially critical when repotting. A loose, porous mix that provides plenty of air to roots while maintaining even moisture is critical. Unfortunately you will probably not be able to buy this high quality potting mix at a local store, unless they specialize in African violets. Commercial mixes labeled "African violet potting soil" are generally awful. Most often they are using a black smelly sedge peat or heavily decomposed Canadian peat that packs down and can ruin violets. Greenhouses will not buy this stuff, so it is sold to unwitting consumers at discount prices. Please, mix your own or send off for some good stuff!!

Several companies advertise potting mixes in this magazine which work quite well. You may find a local violet club that offers soil for sale at their annual shows. These are especially good because local growers have already adjusted the mix to suit the local conditions.

If you wish to mix your own, a good mix to start with is

a 1-1-1 mix of one part milled Canadian sphagnum peat moss, one part coarse perlite, and one part coarse vermiculite. Many growers like to add some (perhaps a third of one part) horticultural charcoal as well. In some areas dolomite lime is also very helpful. We are not fond of adding fertilizer or insecticide to this soil mix. It is easier to control fertilizer when adding it weekly with water. Insecticides can be dangerous when there is skin exposure, and this is hard to avoid when repotting. Apply pesticides only as needed and never casually.

It is also always smart to premoisten the potting mix before using it. Add hot water to the mix and stir it well so that it is evenly moist. Peat is sometimes slow at absorbing

water and does better if the water is hot. You can't use hot water, once a plant is present because it will cause damage. Roots can be stressed by contacting extremely dry soil which absorbs moisture out of the roots, causing them to wither.

NECKS ARE NORMAL BUT THEY AREN'T PRETTY

It is normal to have a neck develop on violets. You are not a bad grower just because a neck happened. But if you leave that neck and let it get worse ... shame!

Looking at the good side, a neck is a great reminder that violets need repotting once a year, just to freshen the soil. Without the reminder, it's easy to forget ... it's a good thing!

Boyce Edens Research Fund

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Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

Get Ready for Show!

Yes, I'm advising you to get your gesneriads ready for spring shows starting in September! In 1999 the AVSA convention will be in Houston, Texas. Since I live near Houston I'm getting most of my gesneriads ready for convention beginning Labor Day weekend. Here's my advice if your show is 6 to 7 months away.

Streptocarpus

It usually takes about 6 months to produce a *Streptocarpus* show plant. Either begin with a newly purchased plant or split apart one of your current plants into smaller ones. Wash away most of the old soil in a bucket with room temperature water. By the way, soil mealy bugs float, so look for them. Pot a small grouping of 3 young plants in a clean 4" or 6" pot making sure that you do NOT bury each plant lower than it is in its current pot. Unlike an African violet, a strep will rot or produce damaged leaves if you pot it too low in the soil. As a precaution, I like to pack a 50/50 mix of perlite and vermiculite an inch around the root system. Surround the outside of the perlite/vermiculite mix with whatever soil you like, preferably a light mix. At show time, you can easily put sphagnum or dark soil on top of the perlite to hide it. Your newly transplanted strep might be unstable, wanting to fall. Pierce the largest leaf with a plastic cocktail stirrer or florist's gift tag trident and push into the soil to stabilize the plant. That leaf will be long gone before show time. Put the newly transplanted plant into 100% humidity using a thin plastic bag such as one you'd find at the grocery store for vegetables. Keep it in that bag for about 4 weeks, occasionally opening the bag and blowing new air inside. After a month, gradually expose it to normal air. When a leaf has produced 6 blossom stalks, remove all but 2" of the base of that leaf forcing it to produce new leaves at that base. Before the show, remove all leaf stubs.

Sinningias

Five months ahead of show is the time needed to get older sinningias in show condition. Cut the top off the old tuber but leave the bottom 2 leaves attached to the old stem. This gives you a tuber with an inch or so of old stem, with 2 leaves attached. Sometimes the tuber won't send up a shoot from the base but will produce a new plantlet from the node between the stem and one of those bottom leaves. If the tuber does send up shoots from the base, then cut off the old stem. Wash the old tuber and remove ALL the old roots. Put the tuber in a plastic baggie with moist, but not soaking wet, perlite/vermiculite mixture. Place the baggie in a closet and check it every two weeks for new growth. When you see new growth, plant it in your usual way. You can plant the top 2 inches of that old plant in a vermiculite/perlite mixture. When it forms a tuber, plant it in your usual manner.

Episcias

With colder winter temperatures and decreased natural light, fall is the best time to have episcias concentrate on growing large enough to support strong stolens and multiple blossoms in the spring. I take an old plant and remove 5 of the largest plants, washed roots intact, and place them in another pot with fresh soil. Temporarily prevent shock by covering them with a plastic bag. Don't allow any new stolens or blossoms for 8 weeks. After 8 weeks allow each plant to have 2 stolens. Pin the stolens to the soil. Now you have 5 mature plants and 10 stolens. Don't allow those newly pinned stolens to have any new stolens for 6 weeks. This way they get nice and big. Thereafter, I pinch off the majority of new stolens as I monitor stolen production, making sure the plants are growing in a nice shape. Eight weeks before show, allow the plant to begin to produce blossoms.

I do not use bloom-boosting fertilizer on any gesneriad but will experiment since some people do use bloom boosters.

Best In Show, Next Time!!!

by Dorothy Kosowsky • Whittier, CA

The Growing Routine

This routine should begin at least 6 months before show time. Just after the close of your yearly show is not too soon to begin for standard African violets in order to achieve an outstanding plant.

Creating a "Good Plant"

Start with the right size pot. If you are working with a miniature, place it in a 2" ROUND pot as soon as the plant is large enough. Use some sort of ring, which can be made from a plastic plate or other similar type material. The 2" pot can be obtained through various advertisers in the AVSA magazine. With semiminatures use a 2-1/8" ROUND pot (this is a very important point, as it does seem to affect the growth pattern).

With standards, start with a 3" pot as soon as possible. Don't forget rings to start your training program. When potting, be sure the depth is correct. For minis, it needs to be about 1/2" below the rim of the pot to ensure adequate watering space, if you are top watering. I know that you may never top water, but we are "creating a painting" with our plant as the canvas, and this gives a more pleasing proportion. For semiminatures, allow a bit more space. For standards, the last row of leaves should be slightly angled up to the rim, but not quite resting on the rim of the pot.

Working With Your "Painting"

You are now ready to start the most important step in your creation, daily care and feeding of your "masterpiece."

While misting and turning on a daily basis may seem a huge chore, there is no other way to get even growth, even bloom distribution and an overall balanced plant. Next comes the weekly removal of leaves that are only a tiny bit smaller than the row above and the constant vigilance for suckers either in the leaf axils or at the base of the plant. These need to be removed as soon as they appear.

The reason for the ring now becomes very apparent. When you look at your "painting", you will be able to see the rosette is not quite round, and whether or not some leaves need to be moved to make the circle perfect. This is

the time to check that each leaf is in the correct row, since, when you are moving your plants, it is very easy to jostle the leaves out of alignment. Do keep them in place for the best growth pattern.

Rings also serve other purposes, such as protecting leaf edges from damage or as a handy turning tool, and also to ensure that each plant receives its fair share of space.

A warning when using tools such as plastic picks, straws, etc. to move leaves into place; be sure they do not damage other leaves as they act as a straightening agent. It only takes about 3 days, at the most, to move an errant leaf, and the picks or whatever you are using should be removed as soon as they have done their work.

Do look at your plant critically, when you are moving up to the next sized pot. The ideal size of a plant in relation to the pot is three to one. Another way of putting it would be; 1/3 of the plant is on one side, 1/3 covers the pot and the other 1/3 is on the other side of the pot.

Do remember to keep your miniatures in as small a pot as possible, because they should only grow to 6 inches, MAXIMUM. When they need repotting, use the same size pot. You can do the same for the semiminatures as well, although there are a few I move up to 2-1/4" pots, and a very few to 2-1/2" pots.

I'm assuming you have your plants on a calendar of light hours and disbudding, and are ready for the final push to have super plants!

The Five Weeks Before the Show

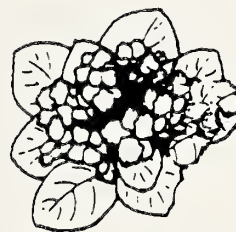
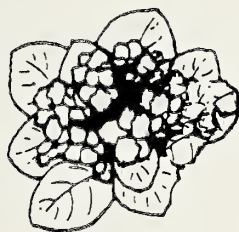
This is a critical time for the best display of your bloom, as you will need to GENTLY guide the peduncles up through the foliage to the center part of the plant. Many varieties need no help and naturally produce their bloom toward the central portion of the plant, but others seem to be quite stubborn, and even manage to bloom under the leaves if you aren't watching. During this period, the plants should all have a bath at the sink. Holding the plant at a slant, and starting in the center, wash each leaf with a stream of tepid water, rotating the plant until you have reached the last leaf in the bottom row.

Secure a box large enough to protect all the leaves of the plant from being damaged on the way to the show.

A Judges Eye View of Your Plants

The greatest loss of points are for:

- Dirty plant
- Wrong size pot
- Stubs and spent bloom not removed
- Gaps in symmetry
- Damaged leaves
- Lack of bloom
- Plants filled to full in order to hide a neck
- Damaged leaves that could have been removed
- Immature leaves in the bottom row



AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from April 1, 1998 to May 31, 1998

Barbara C. Murdock, Jacksonville, FL	\$ 1.00
Ruby Roloff, Sacramento, CA	10.00
Linda Henke, Hollywood, FL	5.00
Laurin Virginia Linson, Grapevine, TX	10.00
Violet Fane, Michigan City, IN	5.00
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Carol Allegretti, Barrington, IL	10.00
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AVS of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA	25.00
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Reno-Sparks AVS, Sparks, NV	10.00
Mrs. Richard Hansen, Silver Spring, MD	10.00
Danville AVS, Danville, VA	3.00
AVS of Greater Tulsa, Tulsa, OK	50.00
Elizabeth Sadova, New York, NY	12.00
Richmond AVS, Richmond, VA	30.00
(in honor of Mary Boland in lieu of Judge's expense)	15.00
(in honor of Jack Wilson in lieu of Judge's expense)	15.00
(in honor of Gary Gordon in lieu of Judge's expense)	15.00
African Violet Study Club, Houston, TX	25.00
Patricia Miklica, San Jose, CA	1.00
Manikhode Bounpheng, Paris, France	10.00
Sacramento Convention Building/Maintenance Fund Raffles	413.00

Total \$1029.00

A special thank you to everyone who stopped by the table in Sacramento and helped with the raffles.

A CLOSER LOOK



David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64501

A
REVIEW

If my records are correct, I have now completed forty interviews with AVSA Commercial members for the *African Violet Magazine*. They represent thousands of miles in the air, several rolls of film, and many telephone calls to complete an interview or verify information. In some cases a rental car has been used to reach a destination. Some stays have required motel rooms, restaurants, and, even in one case, a trip to the emergency room of a hospital. Were they worth it? Yes, a thousand times, yes! And I look forward to forty more.

Before beginning the next forty, I would like to pause and reflect on the past thirteen years and forty interviews across the United States, Canada and South Africa.

Most Peculiar Trip

Travel is always enjoyable when everything goes according to plan. However, sometimes little things begin to accumulate and everything seems to fall apart. At the end of March 1987, I planned to visit three growers for interviews. I flew to my first stop, Cleveland, Ohio, where I rented a car for the weekend. In New York I called the first grower I had scheduled and she gave me directions to her home. Soon, I was in a dismal part of town. Was I lost or turned around? No, so I kept going until I reached a run-down housing project. Eventually, I found the right apartment building, and with some trepidation, went in.

The hallway was littered and smelled offensive. I kept on, and knocked on a door where a very friendly face quickly appeared and let me in. The apartment was not much better than the hallway, but the person was nice enough. On one side of the room, I saw three benches with fluorescent fixtures, the lights on, and to my surprise, about half of the plants were dead - not dry, not sick - but dead.

The survivors, though not yet dead, were not healthy. What should I do? I could not write anything about this lady's plants that could be remotely construed as a recommendation or endorsement. Yet, I did not want to offend her. After the briefest of conversations, I excused myself, as I had "a long trip ahead of me."

My next destination was Keswick, Canada, a few miles

north of Toronto. I arrived mid-afternoon and found my way to the rural home of Bob and Jackie Patterson. After the interview, I eagerly selected several leaves to take with me, many from Canadian hybridizers.

I left for the drive back to Cleveland, where I was scheduled to visit the Eyerdoms at Granger Gardens. The next morning the skies were gray and light rain was falling. No problem. I thought, after all, this was the end of March.

Arriving at Granger Gardens, I was greeted by Jim Eyerdom who escorted me through the greenhouses. His high energy level was apparent as I tried to keep up, taking notes and photographing the benches and plants.

"I don't want to rush you," Jim said, "but, there is a big snow storm coming in and I'd like to get you back on the road." No problem, I thought, this was almost April.

Jim introduced me to his delightful grandparents, Hugh and Grace Eyerdom, and they were a joy to visit.

The moments went by too quickly, as I absorbed the distilled wisdom of years of African violet history. This couple had laid the groundwork, business-wise and genetically speaking, for us today. I hated to leave, but again, Jim urged me.

As I left, the rain increased. After about fifteen miles, I noticed it was beginning to freeze on the windshield wipers and trees. No problem, I told myself, it was almost spring time.

By the time I reached the airport the freezing rain had turned to snow - heavy, thick snow! Now I had a problem! Quickly, I got to the ticket counter and checked in. I placed a large box of Granger's plants onto the X-ray conveyer. The security guard said, "I don't think anything's wrong, but I just have to see what is inside." She gasped when she saw the beautiful plants Jim had so graciously packed just minutes earlier. Soon others came over to see what the fuss was about. As the security guards were "oohing" and "aahing" at the plants, even other passengers came over to see and satisfy their curiosity.

I arrived at the gate in plenty of time and waited. And waited. The incoming flight had been delayed but would land momentarily, we were told. We waited longer. Soon the plane did land and the crew got off. They all got off. That's curious,

I thought, because that flight only had one more stop - Kansas City, my destination and there was no replacement crew in sight.

Finally, we were told that according to FAA regulations, the arriving crew was not "legal to fly." This meant they had been flying too long that day to take off again.

We were assured that a "legal" crew had been paged and would arrive presently. The snow kept falling. In about an hour, the fresh crew arrived and we would soon board.

"Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your patience. Boarding will begin in just a few minutes, but we have to de-ice the airplane again." Snow was still falling. Now, knowing I had a problem, I began to wonder, how big that problem was!

Then it came: "Ladies and gentlemen, the City of Cleveland has closed the airport for the foreseeable future."

The airline graciously gave me vouchers for a hotel and two meals. "Where," I asked, "do I catch a taxi?"

"Oh, no, there are no taxis now! There's almost ten inches of snow on the ground."

"Okay then, let me get my luggage."

"I'm sorry, sir. Your luggage is already on the plane and we can't get to it."

What had been *no problem* had turned into a *big* problem, as I had critical medicine in my suitcase, in addition to a large box of African violets from Granger Gardens, and leaves and cuttings from the Pattersons.

Tired, disgusted, and disappointed I began walking through the snow toward a hotel. Remember, I was dressed for spring - a sport shirt and jacket and light pants. The cold, wet snow went through to my skin, and I must have looked quite pathetic.

Once checked in at the front desk, I made my way to the room. As my wet, chilled hands fumbled with the lock I had the eerie feeling that someone was on the other side of the door. Suddenly the door flew open and a really big man (a lot bigger than me) gruffly said, "Whadda ya tryin' to do, pal?" H-m-m-m, I thought, his flight must have been canceled, too. I quickly retreated to the front desk and got another room key.

After a miserable night on a too soft, too noisy bed, I got up to a bright, sunshiny day. Things were getting better - they had to, and soon I was winging my way back home. And the plants and leaves? They survived Cleveland's record snowfall in a twelve-hour period and did well.

Most Important Interview

In late 1988 I received a call from then editor of the AVM, Jane Birge. "David, I have to tell you something very important, but you cannot share this with anyone else, okay?"

How could I say no? Of course I would not tell anyone.

"We have just seen a yellow African violet," she told me. "We saw it! It's not a bright canary, but it is definitely yellow, and the hybridizer is optimistic that his breakthrough will lead to greater colors. He has come up with beautiful shades of

ivory, coral and peach when the yellow is combined with other colors."

The hybridizer was Nolan Blansit from southern Missouri, and he had kept this color breakthrough a secret until then.

"Would you be able to interview Nolan and share the announcement with our readers?" Jane asked.

Soon I was on the road to Ozark, Missouri, just south of Springfield. Nolan, his wife Cindy, and I hit it off immediately. They were a friendly, effervescent couple who were so excited about their yellows.

Soon the *African Violet Magazine* with a yellow bloom on the cover and my interview with the Blansits inside was published. Calls from across the country started coming to my home at all hours: "Who is this guy and what's his phone number?", "Tell me how to get a yellow African violet!". "Is this a hoax or what?" were typical questions.

My stock answer was that Nolan and Cindy would have the yellows on display at the annual AVSA convention in Kansas City later that year.

Although the introduction of the yellow gene and the early work of hybridizer Blansit has not resulted in a totally bright, vivid yellow, work continues. Hortense Pittman, Sidney Sorano and Don Ness are three leaders in the search for an outstanding yellow bloom.

Most Rewarding Interview

One of my most rewarding interviews of a commercial grower was with Jeannette Domiano of Gretna, Louisiana. That interview was conducted on a 4th of July weekend when the temperatures and humidity of the Deep South were devastating to this overweight Midwesterner.

Jeannette appeared hospitable, but somewhat quiet and reserved as she showed me her hybrids. Like a proud parent, she spoke very lovingly about each seedling. To her, each was special and unique. I remember how carefully and deliberately she handled each plant. She really had a deep affection for each one.

The interview was written and submitted to the AVM. After it was published, I called the editor to say that I liked the way the photos came out and the way the story was laid out.

"Have you heard about Jeannette?" I was asked.

"No, what do you mean?" I replied, already dreading the answer.

"She has cancer and is not expected to live very long."

Just a few days passed and I received a card from someone very close to Jeannette telling me of her death. "David, I want you to know that one of the last things she heard was the article you wrote being read to her by a family member. She understood it and was so appreciative of what you wrote. It really meant a lot to her to know that she had been recognized as a good hybridizer."

In the same vein was an interview with Gordon Boone. Born and raised in Red Oak, Iowa, Gordon was a talented

hybridizer who began with hybridizing begonias. He was mentored by Ernie Fisher, an outstanding African violet hybridizer in Canada, and he brought to us many outstanding introductions. Joyce Stork said it best when she told me, "Gordon hybridizes with the eye of an artist."

Winning the AVSA Bronze Medallion in 1988 for hybridizing was the crowning point for this gifted and sensitive man who never reaped the financial rewards due him.

Gordon died much too young, and we will never know to what heights he would have climbed had he lived. Upon his death, I was honored to be invited to conduct a memorial service for him in Oklahoma City. People from every walk of life were there to remember their friend who had touched the lives of so many in such a short time.

Most Unusual Interview

I have had several unusual interviews. One of the most unusual was with Patty Daniels of Cheney, Kansas. Doing business as Patty's Plants, Patty and her husband lived in the wheat country of south central Kansas. Their yard was literally surrounded by wheat on three sides.

I drove down one June afternoon just as the ripe wheat was a golden brown and would be harvested any day. What a beautiful sight it is to see "amber waves of grain" as the breezes create an undulating motion similar to the gentle waves of an ocean.

Patty and her husband invited me to dine with them after the interview, which I accepted. As we ate, the sun began to set. The approaching darkness triggered a cacophony of frog croaks and chirps within their ranch style home. It turned out that Patty loved animals but was allergic to animal hair and fur. So she chose frogs as pets.

In her home she had a huge collection of frogs from around the world.

Each variety was kept in a separate aquarium or large bowl. Many were colorful and active. Others were drab and sluggish but they all made noise when dusk approached. A most unusual experience.

Most Enjoyable Interview

Every interview is enjoyable as I talk and learn about African violets and the stories surrounding them. I am hard pressed to label one the most enjoyable, but my first visit with Hortense and Ray Pittman will always be very special.

I first met Hortense and "Sundown" in 1977 at the AVSA Convention in St. Louis, and instantly knew they were wonderful and caring people. Over the years I would see them at conventions, and my love and appreciation for them grew at every meeting.

When business took me to San Antonio in 1986, I called Hortense and asked for an opportunity to interview them. With her affirmative reply came a generous invitation to stay in their home.

I learned a great deal those two days with the Pittmans, about the laughter, the love of life, and the affection between husband and wife. I feel I had a rare insight into two uncommon individuals.

Several delicious meals were served, but one dish stands out in my memory. One morning for breakfast, Hortense served jalapeno grits. That was a novel combination for me, coming from the Midwest. Sure, I had eaten jalapeno peppers before, and hominy grits, but the two together reflected the Tex-Mex style that is so popular in Texas. And yes, it was a very delicious combination!

Most Courageous Grower

One of my personal heroes was Dick Maduro of Gainesville, Florida, who passed away in June of this year. Dick and his wife Ann used to own The Violet House. They specialized in selling supplies of all kinds needed to grow African violets. This, as you can imagine, involved lots of lifting and moving about. Soil is mixed and packed. Orders are filled and packaged for shipping across the country.

What was courageous about Dick was that he was totally paralyzed from the waist down and was confined to a wheelchair. A motorcycle accident robbed Dick of feeling and movement in half of his body, but his dignity and independence were intact.

For many years, Dick and Ann had a sales table at AVSA conventions where they made their supplies and catalogs available. In all my conversations with Dick, never had I heard a complaint. His successful business was testimony of his inner strength and fortitude.

Most Painful Interview

A few years ago I contacted Reinhold Holtkamp of Holtkamp Greenhouses in Nashville, TN, to see if I could interview them. In a few days I received a beautifully printed invitation to attend a reception honoring their 10th anniversary in this country.

I planned to fly down one day and return the next so as not to miss much time from my office. During the day I was to leave home I got caught in a drenching downpour. Later that day I flew from Kansas City to Nashville by way of Chicago. By the time I left home, my nose and sinuses were congested and my throat was sore. I felt uncomfortable the first part of the trip, and by the time I left Chicago I had excruciating pain in my ears.

The extreme pain intensified until I couldn't hear. Perspiration dripped from my fevered face. Never before have I had such pain - never again, I pray.

Landing in Nashville didn't give me much relief. The plane was late, and the terminal almost empty, as I made my way to the taxi stand. No taxis were in sight.

"Hey buddy! Where ya goin'?" came a voice from behind me.

"Sorry," I said, "I can't hear too well tonight. Where can I catch a taxi?" I asked the seedy-looking man who had suddenly appeared.

"Aw, ya can't now. They quit runnin' about an hour ago. Where ya'll goin' to?"

"I just want to get in bed. I usually stay at the Howard Johnson's on the north side of town."

"No problem, man. Me and my buddy will take you there for five bucks."

The stranger was unshaven and unfriendly-looking, and ordinarily, it would have taken me only a second to say "no", but the trip and the pain had slipped my brain into slow motion. Sensing my hesitation, the stranger persisted, "C'mon, man. We'll have you there in no time."

Reluctantly, and against my better judgment, I agreed, and headed for the run-down car at the curb. Just as I eased myself into the rusty, dented car, a third man quickly emerged from the shadows of a nearby pillar and said, "Hey, I'm goin' with ya'll!"

If I felt ill at first, the dark foreboding I then felt was even worse. When I hesitated again, one of the men said, with irritation and impatience in his voice, "Come on, hurry up - let's go!"

Off we went, into the darkness. They murmured among themselves. I could not hear well enough to listen, and it is probably just as well. I envisioned the next day's headlines: "Unidentified male found in drainage ditch near airport!"

I began to pray. As a boy, I learned in Sunday School and church of guardian angels. I asked God for a guardian angel to protect me.

Suddenly, the driver veered off the paved road onto a smooth, grassy area. At a high rate of speed, we passed through either a golf course or a huge lawn, or maybe even a cemetery. I couldn't tell for certain.

After what seemed like miles, we flew up onto a freeway going eighty-five miles an hour. I politely asked the driver to slow down, but he assured me that he "jes' want(ed) to get you to the hotel as soon as possible." He succeeded in doing that. As soon we pulled into the driveway of the hotel I said a quick Thank You, God, for guardian angels.

With no more than a "Thanks, guys," I quickly gave the driver his \$5.00 and went to the front desk without a backward glance.

I woke up the next morning with pain in my ears and still unable to hear. A taxi took me to a local hospital where I found my way to the emergency room. The diagnosis: a severe inner ear infection.

"Oh, yes, one more thing," the doctor told me, "don't fly in the meantime or you could suffer permanent damage to your ear." The alternative was a twenty-two-hour ride home on a Greyhound bus.

Later that day, I went to Holtkamp Greenhouses and did the interview. Cordial and hospitable, the Holtkamps sensed

my discomfort and tried to accommodate me the best they could. At the reception that afternoon, I was seated with Anne and Frank Tinari of Tinari Greenhouses and Libby and Bob Glembocki of Bluebird Greenhouses of Apex, North Carolina. I think we had a good time, but not being able to hear, still in pain, and on medication, I am not sure.

Margit Holtkamp was kind enough to take me to the Greyhound Bus Terminal following the reception. Any other time I would have dreaded that long ride home on a bus, but the experience of the night before made me thankful to be going anywhere.

The Most Interesting Character

Because we shared a mutual love for African violets, all of the commercials I have met have endeared themselves to me. However, one unique and memorable personality is Winston Smith of Liberty, Texas. Winston is widely known for his work with variegated African violets he called the Wranglers.

From that series name, I envisioned Winston to be a tall, thin, bowlegged cowboy who raised cattle and attended rodeos in his spare time. What I found in southeast Texas was an articulate, well-educated man who had devoted his life to teaching high school.

In addition to his wide and eclectic interests, Winston's seven gorgeous champagne-colored Cocker Spaniels stand out in my memory. These beautiful dogs live with Winston and the outstanding golden guppies he also breeds.

The past forty interviews have afforded me the rich opportunity to meet and know the leaders in the field of hybridizing, growing and selling African violets.

John Donne wrote:

"No man is an island,
Entire of itself;
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less,
As well as if a promontory were,
As well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were.
Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind;
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee."

Indeed, we are not isolated from one another. Rather, we are connected and interconnected with each other by our love for the African violet - one of God's special creations.

As we continue our visits to AVSA commercial members, you are invited to accompany us by means of the printed page. Hopefully, we will visit your favorite next.

“Partner, Join the Lone Star Violet Round-up!”

1999 AVSA International Convention

April 4 - 11, 1999

Houston, Texas

As you arrive in Houston what you will NOT see is the sleepy little frontier town of the last century, the first capitol of the state, named for General Sam Houston, first president of the Republic of Texas. In 1836, the Allen brothers established a small riverboat landing on Buffalo Bayou. Early immigrants arriving at the port of Indianola made this thriving community their first stop. They purchased oxen, carts and supplies for the harsh journey west on the Old San Antonio Road through the central Brazos River corridor.

By 1880, commerce boomed, thanks to those early efforts of the Allen brothers who enticed many merchants to the area with the advertisement of cheap land. Main Street, however, still remained a muddy, dirt road where horse-drawn wagons and children at play often competed with rowdy wranglers driving cattle through the center of town.

A series of hurricanes at the turn of the century devastated the Gulf coast. Houston became the largest commercial hub in the area. Soon after, the development of the oil industry led to further growth. By the Thirties, the Houston Ship Channel had linked the city to the Gulf of Mexico approximately fifty miles away. The city was well on its way to becoming one of the busiest and largest metropolitan areas in the nation.

Those early days are in stark contrast to the Houston of today. Modern Houstonians were left a legacy. Individuals such as Will Marsh Rice, Judge Roy Hoffines, the de Menils and Ben Taub soon took the lead and set examples of community generosity that the rest of the state would

follow: the establishment of universities, law and order, and the creation of hospitals and churches, the cornerstone of a prosperous community. That tradition prevails in Houston today.

Today, what you WILL see is a culturally diverse, modern city, the most populous city in the state and fourth largest in the nation. It is a hub for international commerce and medical research, and home to the energy industry and space technology. The port moves over 85 million tons of cargo annually, making it the third largest in the U.S. The city is rich in culture, housing five major museums, seventy-five art galleries and resident companies in music, opera, ballet and theater. Residents are very proud of the six universities and colleges in the area, several of which internationally known.

Even with the growing pains of progress, modern Houstonians take great pride in a beautiful city steeped with traditional Texas hospitality. It is on this note that the Lone Star African Violet Council welcomes you to this unique metropolis of the Southwest.

LSAVC hopes your stay here is enjoyable, filled with renewed friendships and new information about our hobby. Begin planning your entries now for the show. Participate in the activities at the convention. Find that one elusive African violet you have always wanted. Take a tour or explore on your own, but see the area. Above all, have fun!

Watch the AVM and web site for further details. Make your reservations early. See you in Houston!





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What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterWell
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive manual for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.

**Selective
Gardener**

More News on Foliar Feeding

by Leta Moser and Dr. Jeff Smith
Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities
Ball State University, Muncie IN 47306

Our previous article (Moser and Smith, 1998) reported that foliar feeding did not affect African violet growth. These findings were contrary to many other reports (Burns, 1986; Green, 1986; Mackey, 1983; Robey, 1980; Welch, 1988) which state that foliar feeding is a positive way to aid plant growth. A potential problem discussed in our paper was that the plants used in the experiment might have been under stress for water due to the capillary watering system used. Because of the possible watering problem and the conflict of the results with the reports of others, a second experiment was conducted.

The purpose of the second experiment was to verify the previous results and to examine some additional variables concerning foliar feeding. The first variable was to change the watering system from a capillary watering action method to a direct wicking system, placing the wick in direct contact with the water supply. The second variable was to see if the type of hairs on the leaf affected foliar feeding. Two different types of leaf hairs exist on African violets. Erect hairs, which have a close to ninety degree angle with the surface of the leaf making the hair stand away from the surface; and appressed hairs, which lie directly on the top of the leaf so that the hairs run parallel to the surface. The third and perhaps most important change in this experiment was the deliberate act of nutrient starving the plants. The plants used in the experiment were not given any fertilizer through the roots. Under these conditions, if there were any way the plants could absorb nutrients through foliar feeding, the results should be readily visible and apparent.

Plants with two different leaf hair types were needed to conduct the experiment. The parent stock plants were siblings from a cross of *Saintpaulia velutina* and *S. magungensis* var. *magungensis*. One plant had the erect hairs of the *S. velutina* parent while its sibling had the appressed hairs of the *S. magungensis* parent. Although one plant was darker green in color than the other, the use of siblings was anticipated to keep many of the genetic factors similar between the plants except for the leaf hairs. Plantlets were reproduced from leaf cuttings from the stock plants for use in the experiment.

The methods of this experiment were similar to that of the previous. The experiment began with 16 plants with erect hairs and 12 plants with appressed hairs. The plants were further divided into two groups, half to serve as controls and half to receive foliar feeding. The plants were pot-

ted in a 1:1:1 ratio of perlite, vermiculite, and peat moss and were grown in the Ball State University greenhouse. The plants were placed on egg crating and watered by a direct wicking to a tray of water. No fertilizer was added to the water, therefore, the only nutrients the plants received were those already in the soil mixture or through foliar feeding. The control plants of each leaf hair type were foliar fed distilled water once a week. The experimental plants were foliar fed using an Optimara® fertilizer (14-12-14, 1/4 teaspoon per gallon) which was the stronger of the two fertilizers used in the previous experiment. The plants were foliar fed as described in the previous experiment, using a plastic bib to prevent run-off from reaching the roots. The plants were grown and foliar fed for three months. At the end of this time, the plants were harvested and the fresh root and shoot weights were taken. After the plants had been dried, the dry weights were also taken and an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test was run on the fresh and dry weights.

At the conclusion of the experiment, it was observed that there were no visual differences among the plants. All of the plants, control and experimental, looked a sick, light-green color. All of the plants were very small and stunted in growth. The plants were undersized for their age and were not flowering. These symptoms suggested that the plants were suffering from nutrient starvation. Further evidence that the plants were highly stressed for nutrients can be found in their mortality rate. The appressed hair plants suffered 50% mortality by the conclusion of the experiment. The erect hair plants had an 18% mortality rate. The cause of death appeared to be starvation from the lack of nutrients.

The visual similarity of the plants was confirmed by the ANOVA results (Table 1). No significant differences ($p=.05$) were found for any of the weights (fresh or dry) or for plant part (shoots or roots). The plants that were foliar fed with the fertilizer solution were not any different in weight than plants that had been foliar fed with distilled water. One may notice what appears to be a fairly large difference in weights when the numbers are compared vertically in the table. However, because of the high mortality rate lowering the sample size in the treatments, the ANOVA test failed to find any significant differences between the weights.

Since the plants were not given any root-applied fertilizer over the three months, they would have been dependent on the soil mix or foliar feeding to supply their nutrient needs. The soil-less mix used in the experiment would have

contained very little nutrients for plant growth and should have been exhausted quickly by the plants. The sickly green color of the plants and their failure to grow suggests that the plants were nutrient starved. The lack of nutrients is also supported by the high mortality rate of the plants. It is unclear why the mortality rate was higher for the appressed leaf hair plants, but this cultivar did appear to be somewhat less robust in growth when compared to the sibling with erect leaf hairs.

Leaf hair type was one of the variables tested in this experiment. It was hypothesized that the erect hairs would allow more surface area of the leaf to be exposed to absorb nutrients through foliar feeding. The appressed leaf hairs were hypothesized to act as a blanket of sorts, covering the leaf surface and not allowing the nutrient solution to penetrate through to the leaf's vascular system. Thus, the erect hair plants should have been able to absorb more nutrients during foliar feeding and should show the better growth. The results, however, found no significant differences in root/shoot or fresh/dry weights between the leaf hair types. Therefore, it appears that erect hair plants are not able to absorb nutrients through foliar feeding better than those with appressed leaf hairs.

The results of this experiment did not find that foliar feeding is an effective way to supply nutrients to African violets. Plants that were foliar fed distilled water were not significantly different than plants that were foliar fed with Optimara fertilizer. Since the plants had been grown under conditions of nutrient stress, it seems logical that they would absorb nutrients from any source available, including foliar feeding. Since the plants did not respond to foliar feeding, it appears that they are not capable of absorbing nutrients through this method. Therefore, the results of this experiment support those of the previous study that foliar feeding does not affect the growth of African violets.

Acknowledgments:

Support for this study was made available from Ball State University and the Indiana Academy of Science.

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Table 1. Average Mass in Grams

	Fresh Root	Fresh Shoot	Dry Root	Dry Shoot
Control Erect N=6	.43	1.75	.05	.13
Optimara Erect N=7	.48	1.93	.06	.14
Control Appressed N=3	.72	2.58	0.8	.14
Optimara Appressed N=3	.56	1.53	.07	.21

In Memory

ELIZABETH GATLIN ABRAHAM

Elizabeth Gatlin Abraham, Memphis, TN, passed away in March, 1998. A member of AVSA and the Bluff City AVC, she grew many beautiful violets and earned many blue ribbons for her show entries.

PATRICIA C. ISBELL

An active member of AVSA and the Desert Sun AVS of Phoenix, AZ, Patricia C. Isbell, passed away in May 1998. Pat had a unique perspective on life and any job she was asked to do. Her passions were growing beautiful African violets and orchids. In 1946, Pat was awarded the US Medal of Freedom for exceptionally meritorious achievement.

Showcase

Cathy's Fireworks

Best In Class

1998 National Show

Semiminiature

Exhibited by: Dorothy Kosowsky

Hybridized by: C. Cornibe

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Sunnyside Roma

Best In Class

1998 National Show

Exhibited by: Irene Boro

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky





Favorite Child

From Best AVSA Collection

1998 National Show

Standard

Exhibited by: Carroll Gealy

Hybridized by: Cox/B. Johnson

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Nob Hill

Standard

Exhibited by: Irene Boro

Hybridized by: G. Beck

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Finding Them Where They Are

Bev Promersberger - Affiliate Committee
17415 Charter Pines Drive
Monument, CO 80132

In my last column, in the May issue, I stated that I would begin to discuss some creative ways of attracting new members. The most effective and modern method in this day of computers and the internet is the AVSA web site. As one person so aptly put it, "Find them where they are." The web site has been available for affiliate information for a few months, and it has already proven successful. One member told me that their affiliate got three new members as a result of their information on the web site. Another said they had six visitors as a result of being listed on the web site and three of those joined AVSA the first visit.

You have all had invitations to take advantage of this FREE publicity through the web site, at convention and in the March issue of the *African Violet Magazine*. Not even half of you have taken advantage of this offer. What do you need to do?

1. Have someone in your affiliate with internet access check the AVSA web site (<http://www.AVSA.org/affiliates>) to see if the information concerning your affiliate is listed.
2. Check to see if the information is correct and complete. If there are changes or additions that should be made, please e-mail clubs@avsa.org with those changes or additions.
3. Check with your members to see if anyone has a form from convention and has sent or is planning to send it in. Many members at convention took copies of the information form available. Unfortunately, only a few have followed through by sending the information to me.
4. If the information is not entered at all and no one seems to know anything about it, please e-mail the following information to clubs@avsa.org. Check the web site a week or two later to see if the information was entered, complete and correct.

Please complete as much of the following information as your affiliate wants listed. Remember your entry might be read by someone new or unfamiliar to your location. You can e-mail clubs@avsa.org this information to me or you can send it to the address above.

I want to tell you now much I have enjoyed the year-books and newsletters you sent me this past year. Even

though there is no longer any competition for them at convention, they are still valuable to your affiliate and I get many ideas from them to share. I appreciate those of you who even put me on your newsletter mailing list. I read them from cover to cover and am hopeful you will continue to send them. With no restrictions as to size and content, many of you have become even more creative, keeping the needs of the affiliate members in mind. Keep up the good work.

If there is anyone reading this column who is not a member of an affiliate, be sure to check the 1998 Affiliated Club list in this issue of the magazine. If you don't find a club near you, you may contact me to see if anyone else in your area has contacted me regarding starting an affiliate. I keep a list and have been able to connect some members in the same location so as to start an affiliate together. You might be next. If not, I can send you a packet of materials that we have assembled to assist even the novice grower to begin a club or study group.

One last but very important point - be sure when you share magazines or culture folders with prospective members of AVSA that you have the current address and magazine subscription price listed. An outdated membership price not only creates more time and effort for the office to request the additional amount, but often creates unhappy feelings on the part of the new member. Please make every effort to change outdated information.

In the January issue, we will continue to discuss ways to attract new members. We will feature the methods used by our council to attract the most new members of any affiliate for the last two years, enabling us to win the Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award.

Let's continue to share and grow together.

1. Name of affiliate
2. Near city — this is very useful because the town or city in which you live or meet might be small or unknown (just one city please).
3. Meeting - this includes the day of the month, months you meet (i. e. "September through May" or "except July and December"). If you do not list anything it is assumed that you meet all twelve months of the year.

Don't forget the time of your meeting.

4. Location of meeting - Building name, address, city, state and ZIP. When listing an address, please be complete. One could not write from out of town without a zip code.
 5. Contact name - Again if you list an address, please be complete, including a zip code. You can list address, phone and e-mail for your contact. You can also list your affiliate's web page address. The address is good because someone might have gotten the information from a friend who has internet access and they might want to write prior to moving to a new location. The phone is good for last minute and easy contact. E-mail is good if contact can be made a few days in advance. The more information you have, the better chance you have of being contacted regarding your affiliate. I can use two different contact names, one for phone and address and another for e-mail.
 6. Suggestions for additional information: 1.) who is eligible to join, 2.) your annual show (if you have a show on a certain weekend or month each year, i.e. Mother's Day weekend, March or April, or fall). **This should NOT include a specific date for an upcoming show.** That is for "Coming Events" and should be sent into the office in time to meet magazine deadlines.
- I also want to refer you to the July *African Violet*

Magazine and the article entitled, "A Helping Hand into the Future", (page 10). It is a very timely project for your club to pursue. It has the possibility of immediate new members as well as members from future generations.

All affiliates should check the 1998 AVSA Affiliated Clubs list in the center section of this month's AVM to assure that the president listed is current. If not, send a change to the AVSA office via e-mail or regular mail. The office needs the current names of the president and treasurer. The current president assures that any correspondence is sent to the correct address and that anyone who reads the magazine has a current address by which to contact your affiliate. The current treasurer assures that the right person receives the affiliate billing and prevents any confusion regarding your affiliate status.

While you are checking the affiliate list, you might also check the commercial and judges' listings. You never know if a new name might appear on either of those lists. You could see a new judge listed as the result of the judge's exam taken at convention or a summer move to a new location. It is easier for your affiliate to make contact with that new judge by way of a simple post card or phone call than for that judge to try to find out where and when you meet. Believe me, I've tried it!



BLAKE'S AUNT DORIS

by Blake Mayfield • Rogers, TX

I think the world of my aunt, Doris Acree, and she got me interested in African violets. Aunt Doris had been a member of the "Happiness Is" African Violet Club in Colorado for several years. I can remember going to Colorado to visit Aunt Doris and Uncle Cecil, standing amazed at their back door as I looked up at the mountains, then going into the house and being overwhelmed again by all of the beautifully blooming African violets. When my visit was over, I carried a box of African violets home.

Aunt Doris taught me that you just can't have *one* African violet. It took me a while to learn to grow the plants, but if I lost some, Aunt Doris would send me boxes through the mail, and it was just like Christmas all over again!

She has always said if you grow African violets, you need to be in an African violet club. It took me several years before I finally became a member of the Cen-Tex Rainbow African Violet Club. This group is made up of some of the most enjoyable and knowledgeable people that I have ever

met. Our members are all outstanding growers with a wealth of information to share.

At our show and sale last April I was honored to win Best in Show and many other awards. My success was a direct result of what I

have learned from Aunt Doris and the members of the club. Our club is like a family; we work together as a team and have a wonderful time.

Today with several hundred African violets, many varieties of episcias, *Streptocarpus*, and other gesneriads, I'm running out of space! I have recently begun hybridizing, and hopefully something good will come from it.

Thanks, Aunt Doris! You got me started, and I hope I can live up to your expectations, someday helping someone else discover the rewards of growing America's favorite houseplant.



Blake & Doris

Showcase

Rob's Twinkle Blue

*New Introduction
1998 National Show
Miniature*

*Exhibited & Hybridized by:
Ralph Robinson
Rob's Mini-o-lets
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky*



Rob's Macho Devil

*Semiminiature
Exhibited & Hybridized by:
Ralph Robinson
Rob's Mini-o-lets
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky*



AVSA Judges, Affiliates & Commercial Members - 1998

^JAVSA Judges, ^XSenior Judges, ^MMaster Judges,
^SStudent Judges, ^TTeachers and ^{ME}Master Emeritus

INTERNATIONAL CANADA ALBERTA

- ^S Bowes, Lil, 17321- 60 Ave NW, Edmonton T6M 1E9
- ^J Corbett, Sharon J, 8206162 St, Edmonton T5R 2L7
- ^J Den Oudsten, Maida, 4424 35 Ave SW, Calgary T3E 1B3
- ^J Douglas, Mrs. F M, 232 Southamptn Dr S W, Calgary T2W 0V7
- ^X Goretsky, Winston J, 32 Scimitar Point NW, Calgary T3L 2B2
- ^J Gratto, Mrs. M R, 4206 33 St, Red Deer T4N 0N2
- ^J Hargesheimer, Erika E, 81 Woodpath Terrace S W, Calgary T2W 5Z6
- ^J Jarratt, Margaret V, 120, Oak Church Place SW, Calgary T2V 4B5
- ^S Liberty, Gabriela, 321 1 60 St NE, Calgary T1Y 3L3
- ^S Lowndes, Margaret, 4935 Marcombe Rd NE, Calgary T2A 4JS
- ^J Melnechuk, Jean, 332 Point Mckay CdwS Nw, Calgary Alberta T38 4V8
- ^J Mitchell, Mrs L, 12911-82 St, Edmonton T5E 2T3
- ^J Nagy, Betty, 424 Douglasbank Court SE, Calgary T2Z 1X1
- ^J Rousseau, Elizabeth A, #30 10401 19 St SW, Calgary T2W 3E7
- ^J Salamanowicz, Mr Walter, 324 Cantrell Dr SW, Calgary T2W 2C6
- ^J Urano, Gwen A, 3620 - 58 Ave S W, Calgary Alb T3E 5H6
- ^X Wonnacott, S L, 16 Abbotsford Place NE, Calgary T2A 6V2

NEW BRUNSWICK

- ^X Bell, Mrs Jean, Codys RR 4, Queens County EOE 1E0
- ^X Belliveau, Mrs Eva, 10 Vista Dr, Moncton E1A 4L5
- ^S Boyd, Sherin, 211 Charlotte St, Saint John E2M 1Y2
- ^J Brooks, Susan A, 260 Douglas Ave, Saint John E2K 1E6
- ^X Hughes, M Louise, 14 McArthur Ave, Moncton E1C 3L8
- ^X Moffett, Mrs Anne, 80 Moffett Ave, Sussex E4E 3Y1

NOVA SCOTIA

- ^J Beaver, Ina, 2 Shamrock Dr, Dartmouth B3A 2Y7
- ^J Brown, Anne M, 2831 Doug Smith Dr, Halifax B3L 3T6
- ^S Leblanc, Elise, 3497 Rowe Ave, Halifax B3L 4C8
- ^{TX} Wiseman, Lois, 45 Shea St, Sackville B42 2BC

ONTARIO

- ^S Beeching, Vivian, 648 Hillman Cres, Mississauga L4Y 2H9
- ^J Biljan, Angelle, 5 Oakridge Blvd, Nepean K2G 2T6
- ^X Brownlie, Doris M, 600 Silvercreek Blvd #80, Mississauga L5A 2B4
- ^J Carrick-Wedel, Lucy, 14 Hiawatha Rd, Toronto M4L 2X8
- ^J Conlin Lane, Carolyn, 57 Hillbeck Cres, Scarborough M1B 2M8
- ^J Dawson, Mrs. M T, 36 High Street, Hamilton L8T 3Z3
- ^J Ellwood, Mrs. J D, 10 Doris Ave, Gloucester K1T 3W8
- ^X Elston, Eleanor, 4 Superior Ave #18, Toronto M8V 2M4
- ^{TX} Harriman, Mr. R F, 2395 Ogilvie Rd, Ottawa K1J 7N4
- ^J Heazle, Ralph, 214-A Equestrian Dr, Kanata K2M 1E2
- ^S Jago, P W, 6 Eagle Rock Way, Stitsville K2S 1C9
- TM Lex, Sandra, 70 Enfield Ave, Toronto M8W 1T9
- ^J Maguire, Diane, 1580 Shale Oak Mews, Mississauga L4W 2L7
- ^J McCabe, Mr Robert, 769 Holt Crescent, Ottawa K1G 2Y5

- ^{TX} Tapping, ElizabethA, 1512-511 The West Mall Etobicoke M9C 1GS
- ^S Toms, James C, 59 Merrygale Cres, Islington M9B 5N9
- ^J Westbrook, Bill, 848 Acadian Gardens, Orleans K1C 2V6
- ^X Williams, Mrs Beverley, 3052 Grenville Dr, Mississauga L5A 2P7
- ^J Wolfe, Mrs Inez, 3536 Autumn Leaf Cir, Mississauga L5L 1K5
- ^J Yaremko, Mrs Daphne, 1-211 Pine Valley Dr, London N6J 4W5
- ^S Young, Bruce, 1-15 Acacia Ave, Ottawa, K1M 0P3

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- ^X Lewis, Mrs Hilda, 202 Spring Park Rd, Charlottetown C1A 3Y9

QUEBEC

- ^S Bellehumeur, Marie, 15 Dorius St, Repentigny J6A 4X9
- ^J Charbonneau, Nicole, 1061 47 Ave, Montreal H1A 2Z1
- ^X Croteau, Denis, 3055 Ter Abenakis, Longueuil J4M 2B6
- ^M Durand, Greta, #317-21 Lakeshore Road, Pointe Claire H9S 5N3
- ^S Gagnon, Denise, 269 Rue Senecal, Longueuil J4G 1M8
- ^J Gagnon, Marie, 1571 Sabrevois, Beloeil J3G 6A6
- ^S Gendron, Claire, 4819 Place Henri-Valade App 4, Montreal H1Y 3G7
- ^X Henry, Mrs Irene, 349 Hyman Dr, Dollard Des Ormeaux H9B 1 L5
- ^J Herbatuk, Mrs Anne, 2400 Auvergne, Duvemay Laval, H7E IZ4
- ^J Johnston-Newman, Nancy, 127 Spartan Cres, Pointe-Claire, H9R 3H4
- ^S Lemieux, Lucienne, 2193 St Stanislas St, Jonquiere G7S 2R2
- ^S Martin, Rene, 2355 Lavallee, Longueuil J4L 1R3
- ^S Paradis, Michel, 2688 Oxford, Longueuil J4L 2M6
- ^J Pigeon, Jean-Marc, 1260 Rue Pierre Floquet, St Luc J2W 1X3
- ^J Pigeon, Monique, 1260 Rue Pierre Floquet, St Luc J2W 1X3
- ^S Pilon, Francine, 8120 Boul Langelier Apt 6, St Leonard H1P 2B9
- ^J Santopietro, Diane, 7020 Lacordaire, St Leonard H1S 2A4
- ^S Simard, Annie, 156 Eleanor, Otterburn Park J37 1T5
- ^S Turcotte, Jocelyne, 2120 Goyer St, Chomedey H7T 1X1

ENGLAND

- ^J Goodship-Patience, Miss Gwen, 33 Common Rd Langley Slough, Berks SL3 8JZ

JAPAN

- ^S Horikoshi, Mr Kazuo, 2-39-9 Higashioizumi, Nerimaku 178-0063

SOUTH AFRICA

- ^{TX} Halford, C C, No 2 Newlands Park PO Box 370, Newlands Plaza Pretoria 0049

UNITED STATES ALABAMA

- TM Breckenridge, J M, 1042 19th Ave S, Birmingham 35205-6458
- ^X Buie, Mrs. Sherry, 1210 Scenic View Dr, Dothan 36303-1957
- ^M Eichelberger, Ruby T, 1409 10th St S, Birmingham 35205-4519

- * Ferguson, Donalda, 5831 Oakwild Dr., Montgomery 36117-2919
- † Jackson, Michael, 1220 14th St N, Bessemer 35020-4676
- ™ Lockhart, Mrs Roy, PO Box 660051, Birmingham 35266-0051
- * Moseley, Mary H, 710 Duval Dr, Montgomery 36109-3802
- ™ Phythyon, Peg, 852 Haggerty Rd, Wetumpka 36093-3316
- * Price, Mary F, 748 Dubuque Dr, Montgomery 36109-2510
- ™ Sisler, Mrs. Orland O, 2833 Ashley Ave, Montgomery 36109-2017
- * Strock, Mrs Barbara, 1681 Al Highway 143, Elmore 36025-1520
- * Thomley, Christie D, 2602 Evans Dr., Dothan 36303-2131
- * Till, Doris, 2927 Canterbury Ct, Montgomery 36111-1225

ALASKA

- * Gordon, Patricia M, PO Box 878809, Wasilla 99687-8809

ARIZONA

- † Fuller, Mrs Barbara, 409 S Kenyon Dr., Tucson 85710-1043
- † Jolivet, Mrs Georgette, 15226 S Power Rd Apt 1011, Higley 85236-6214
- * Loomis, Ruth, 603 N San Francisco St., Flagstaff 86001-3230
- † Schierl, Rosemary, 7000 N 16th St # 120465, Phoenix 85020-5547

ARKANSAS

- ™ Brown, Jerome E, HC 73 Box 118, Marble Falls 72648-9714
- † Robertson, Glenda, 5 Worthington Ct, Little Rock 72212-1300
- † Toalson, Betty, 3 Ponca St., Sherwood 72120-2516
- * Walker, Mrs M D, 619 Edinburgh Ct, Jacksonville 72076-3435
- † Walsh, Margaret, 9 Yocum Rd, Rogers 72756-9245

CALIFORNIA

- † Allustiarti, Mrs Evelyn, 1812 El Verano Way, Belmont 94002-3631
- * Arakaki, Sue, 2475 Corinth Ave Apt 104, Los Angeles 90064-3070
- ™ Beck, Gary R, 1155 Pine St Apt 4, San Francisco 94109-5144
- * Boddy, Pat, 2232 Maxine Way, Rancho Cordova 95670-2019
- † Borck, Byron, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa 95403-2632
- * Borck, Heath, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa 95403-2632
- * Borck, Heather, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa 95403-2632
- ™ Breden, Ralph, 127 Via Los Altos, Redondo Beach 90277-6433
- † Chase, Celine K, 482 Rutherford Ave, Redwood City 94061-4214
- * Comibe, Mrs Cathy, 197 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz 95060-2442
- † Cox, Leslie, 208 Maynard Ave, Newbury Park 91320-4264
- † Eisenhut, Jacquie, 22800 Eriel Ave, Torrance 90505-3011
- ™ Elkin, Barbara Jane, 2855 Gayle Ln, Auburn 95602-9674
- † Fallaw, June, PO Box 8157, Pittsburg 94565-8157
- † Gawienowski, D, 1140 Northumberland Dr, Sunnyvale 94087-1709
- * Gealy, Carroll B, 1924 Elmsbury Rd, Westlake Village 91361-3509
- † Geck, Honey, 8381 Daren Cir, Huntington Beach 92646-2127
- † Grafelmann, Mr Fred, 1447 32nd Ave, San Francisco 94122-3136
- † Gregory, Mary, 5116 W 137th Pl, Hawthorne 90250-6539
- † Hofer, Edward E, 607 Virginia Rd, Fullerton 92831-1839
- † Hoover, Darryl, 1812 Southgate Ave, Fullerton 92833-3734
- * Inpijn, Hans, 5412 Via Carrizo, Laguna Hills 92653-3092
- ™ Jantzen, Anne, 4001 Via Cristobal, Campbell 95008-2759
- * Keating, Iris L, 149 Loretto Ct, Claremont 91711-1739
- † Kenny, Jacklyn, PO Box 428, Crockett 94525-0428
- ™ King, Frances C, 3327 28th St, San Diego 92104-4524
- * Kosowsky, Mrs Dorothy, 712 Cunningham Dr, Whittier 90601-1016
- † Lawson, Floyd L, 1100 W Huntington Dr Apt 21, Arcadia 91007-6302

- † Linkswiler, Rita, 12512 Prairie Rose Way, Bakersfield 93312-3569
- † McCanne, Gini, 1420 Oxford Ave, Claremont 91711-3461
- ™ McCoy, Ruth Jo, 605 Pringle Ave Spc 44, Galt 95632-8749
- † Mendes, Leona M, 3521 Montclair Rd, Cameron Park 95682-9079
- * Naylor, Florence, PO Box 1411, Ventura 93002-1411
- † Orcholski, Chrisy, 8381 Daren Cir, Huntington Beach 92646-2127
- † Parker, Vera, 214 W Mayfair Ave, Stockton 95207-5109
- ™ Poss, Mrs. Francis, 12 Kelton Ct, San Mateo, 94403-4311
- * Purins, Ms Sandy, 25399 The Old Rd Unit 16209, Stevenson Ranch 91381-1629
- † Ragan, Vivien, 2026 Beach St, Concord 94519-2506
- * Rapske, Kathleen, 1072 S Mountvale Ct, Anaheim 92808-2107
- † Re, Leonard, 9144 Helm Ave, Fountain Valley 92708-4435
- * Roberson, Betty S, 3612 Laredo St, Carlsbad 92008-2172
- ™ Rosenfeld, Mrs Lawrence, 2030 Junction Ave, El Cerrito 94530-1765
- * Shaver, Marcia L, 1187 Buckingham Dr, Thousand Oaks 91360-5204
- * Shipley, Mrs Jean, 3238 Preble Ave, Ventura 93003-4808
- † Thomas, W, 1199 Lyons St, Redwood City 94061-2262
- † Thornburg, Don, 10137 Daisy King Dr, Grass Valley 95949-9239
- * Wang, Mrs Ann, 120 S 4th St, Santa Paula 93060-2605
- * Weaver, Doris R, 3940 Alvarado Ave, Stockton 95204-2303
- † Willoughby, Kathy, PO Box 458, Clayton 94517-0458
- † Wood, Enid, 45 Hallmark Cir, Menlo Park 94025-6682

COLORADO

- † Curtis, Linda, 7161 Pierce St, Arvada 80003-3607
- † Hann, Mrs. Richard C, 3338 S Glencoe St, Denver 80222-7520
- ™ Kiesling, Ella A, 475 Madison St, Denver 80206-4438
- † Levine, Nelly, 8797 Iris St, Arvada 80005-1233
- † Miller, Jean Marie, 6661 Upham Dr, Arvada 80003-3943
- † Mitchell, Shirley, 2200 Stanford Rd, Fort Collins 80525-1415
- * Olander, Mrs Martha, 3333 E Florida Ave Apt 21, Denver 80210-2541
- * Otto, Norah E, 33 Frontier Ln, Magnolia Star Route, Nederland 80466-9626
- ™ Promersberger, Mrs Beverly, 17415 Charter Pines Dr, Monument 80132-8468
- ™ Ratte, Frances, PO Box 382, Black Hawk 80422-0382
- ™ Schaetzel, Margaret T, 2451 S Jasmine Pl, Denver 80222-6229
- † Sorensen, Mrs Janice, 8357 E Jamison Cir S, Englewood 80112-2755
- † Tracy, Parker E, 620 S 41st St, Boulder 80303-5915

CONNECTICUT

- † Bower, Richard C, 239 Fort Path Rd, Madison 06443-2216
- * Butler, Ann W, 8 Buell St, North Haven 06473-4309
- † Fargeot, Mrs Julius, 235 Alps Rd, Branford 06405-4745
- ™ Hayes, Nancy G, 9 Cobblestone Rd, Bloomfield 06002-3003
- † Kilpatrick, Marcia G., 139 Kenyon Rd, Hampton 06247-1112
- * Rourke, Edna, 99 Old Stratford Rd, Shelton 06484-6129
- † Siegel, Sylvia L, 11 Saint Marys Ln, Norwalk 06851-2211
- † Taub, Sylvia B, 141 E View Dr, Windsor 06095-1829
- * Wallach, Mrs Lynn, 55 Red Coat Rd, Westport 06880-1414
- * Wheeler, Roger W, PO Box 263, Shelton 06484-0263
- * Wille, Susan G, 45 Ledyard Ave, Bloomfield 06002-3357

DELAWARE

- * Abramson, Mrs. D G, 4003 Greenmount Rd, Wilmington 19810-3303
- * Behnke, Wallace P, 1735 Old Baltimore Pike, Newark 19702-2027
- ™ Callaghan, Carol, 2806 Rickdale Rd, Wilmington 19810-3434
- * Celano, Theresa, 1703 N Bancroft Pkwy, Wilmington 19806-2433

- ^x Celano, Mrs Angeline, 4927 Lancaster Pike, Sedgely Farms, Wilmington 19807-2550
- [†] McMann, Mrs. Leland J, 2421 S Lori Ln, Wilmington 19810-3405
- [†] Pirone, Andrea, 603 Cheshire Ct, Wilmington 19808-1500
- ^s Webber, Patricia, 7 Durboraw Rd, Wilmington 19810-4101

FLORIDA

- ^s Bannister, Ronald L, 695 Bear Creek Ct, Winter Springs 32708-3666
- [†] Barnes, Dee, 2425 Harden Blvd Lot 120, Lakeland 33803-5952
- [†] Boyer, James R, 1154 Pointe Newport Ter, Casselberry 32707-7236
- [†] Brown, Claudette, 14189 W Hibyrd Ct, Crystal River 34429-5155
- ^s Carter, Carolee, 7554 NW 1st Pl, Plantation 33317-2264
- [†] Carter, Catherine A, 13774 Night Hawk Ct, Jacksonville 32224-3016
- ^s Collier, Christel, 1203 Greenview Dr, Lakeland 33805-4715
- [†] Courson, Barbara J, 527 Willow Run Knoll, Lakeland 33813-3666
- ^x Droege, Alyce D, 155 Spartan Dr, Maitland 32751-3427
- ^m Egenites, Leila M, 1409 Nottingham Dr, Naples 34109-1675
- ^m Eichenberger, Mrs William, 1544 Lime St, Clearwater, 33756-2345
- ^x Goldstein, Mrs Jack, 12900 SW 33rd Dr, Davie 33330-1246
- ^{tx} Green, Bob, 997 Botany Ln, Rockledge 32955-3913
- [†] Green, Jackie, 997 Botany Ln, Rockledge 32955-3913
- ^x Hann, Mrs Dorothy, 2452 Alhambra St, Clearwater 33761-2602
- [†] Hendershot, Eryth, 817 Johnson Ave, Lakeland 33801-5258
- ^s Jank, Stephen P, 197 Wood Hall Dr, Mulberry 33860-8522
- [†] Johannsen, Bobbi, 14029 Fortunado Rd, Jacksonville, 32225-2003
- tm Johnson, Mrs H Steven, 4177 Versailles Dr, Orlando 32808-2289
- [†] Kurtz, Jan, 804 Rio Vista Dr, Pensacola Beach 32561-2281
- [†] Martinez, Jo Anne, 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa 33613-1048
- [†] Menish, J D, 121 Brentshire Dr, Brandon 33511-4815
- [†] Menish, Wilhelmine, 121 Brentshire Dr, Brandon, 33511-4815
- ^x Merritt, Louise, 4200 Croydon Rd, Pensacola 32514-6814
- ^s Mink, Janis, 430 E Dayton Cir, Fort Lauderdale 33312-1917
- [†] Moak, Frederick E, 1007 Meadowcrest Dr, Valrico 33594-6624
- ^x Partain, Judy, 9 Hummingbird Ln, Winter Haven 33884-3111
- ^s Potter, Leticia, 2531 NE 195th St, Miami 33180-2211
- [†] Rose, Dorothy F, 13305 Whispering Palms Pl SW Apt 203, Largo 33774-2511
- [†] Ross, Jean Marie, 114 Reflection Blvd, Aubumdale 33823-9656
- [†] Schwindt, Patti, 1625 S Delaney Ave, Orlando 32806-3054
- [†] Scott, Mrs. H B, 1 9 1 7 SE 32nd St, Cape Coral 33904-4092
- [†] Shelton, Glenn, 8977 70th St, Pinellas Park 33782-4509
- [†] Sims, Charline, 7950 Lancelot Dr, Pensacola 32514-6434
- ^{tx} Smith, James H, 1449 Paloma Ln, Dunedin 34698-4317
- [†] Sprayberry, Lois R, 840 Linton Ave, Orlando 32809-6462
- [†] Stencel, Janice, 450 Mill Springs Ln, Plantation 33325-3518
- ^x Whitaker, DoDe, 2085 Leeward Ln, Merritt Island 32953-3062
- [†] Wilson, Lynne, 645 Hudson Ave, Tampa 33606-3926

GEORGIA

- ^x Cumpton, Joan, 2 1 9 Sunset Dr, Wamer Robins 31088-4170
- ^x Cumpton, Pierce, 219 Sunset Dr, Wamer Robins, 31088-4170
- [†] Duvall, Mrs Lois, RR 1 Box 64, Eastanollee 30538-9713
- [†] Kotliar, Margaret, 112 Skyview Ct, Athens 30606-3847
- ^x Lewis, Betty, 935 Ridgedale Dr, Lawrenceville 30043-3228
- ^s McGaha, Sarah W, 4925 Howard Rd, Cumming, 30040-5207
- ^x Moffatt, Helen, 41 83 Quinn Dr, Evans 30809-4819
- [†] Walker, Laura L, 1081 N Jamestown Rd Apt F, Decatur 30033-3682

ILLINOIS

- [†] Allegretti, Carol, 24500 N Kelsey Rd, Barrington 60010-1561
- [†] Boyd, Carol, 303 S Stewart St, Geneseo 61254-1425
- ^x Bruns, Joseph, 1 220 Stratford Ln, Hanover Park 601 03-2667
- ^x Goodsell, Mrs Barbara, 429 Cherry Ln, Glenview 60025-4576
- ^s Harms, P. 2133 Crawford Ave, Evanston, IL 60201-1870
- ^s Jarnowski, Frances, 182 Old Sutton Rd, Barrington 60010-9366
- ^x Landgren, Anna Jean, 2450 Iroquois Rd, Wilmette 60091-1368
- ^s Lavine, Alma, 119 N Stewart St, Geneseo 61254-1311
- ^x Palm, Elinor A, 4640 1 82nd Pl, Country Club Hills 60478-5037
- [†] Roth, Fred S, 1055 N Metter Ave, Columbia 62236-1213
- tm Schroeder, Mrs Mildred, 1020 N Harlem Ave Apt 4F, River Forest 60305-1519
- [†] Simmons, Morgan, 2210 Hartzell St, Evanston 60201-1424

INDIANA

- ^s Mikita, Gary S, 2842 Brown St, Portage 46368-3918
- [†] Willey, Jean, 851 Kenmare Pkwy, Crown Point 46307-2654

IOWA

- ^{tx} Jones, Jacquetta E, 60714th Ave # 34, Durant 52747-9785
- [†] Jugenheimer, John, 1105 W 17th St, Davenport 52804-3713
- ^s Mathews, Mrs Leland, 1562 Highway 117 N, RT 2 Box 125, Colfax 50054-7529
- [†] Pershing, Barbara, 8134 Buck Rdg, Cedar Falls 50613-9412
- ^x Schafer, Celia, 3830 Woodland Ct, Davenport 52807-1510
- ^x Thompson, Catherine R, PO Box 213, Cedar Falls 50613-0213
- ^x Tyler, Janice K, 1461 Norske Rd, Decorah 52101-7366
- [†] Watts, Joan M, 620 Ray St, Colo 50056-1031
- [†] Watts, Wayne, 620 Ray St, Colo 50056-1031

KANSAS

- [†] Barrett, Helen V, 6700 Farmview St, Wichita 67206-1011
- [†] Beaver, Frances S, 10715 W 56th Ter, Shawnee 66203-2307
- [†] Knobbe, Sue K, 15532 Marty St, Overland Park 66223-3028
- [†] McCurnin, Grace R, 6812 Reeds Rd, Overland Park 66204-1539
- ^m Montgomery, Isla, 216 Ross St, Downs 67437-1822
- [†] Richards, Pat, 15105 S Seminole Dr, Olathe 66062-3004
- [†] Russell, Raymond L, 807 W 27th Ter, Lawrence 66046-4617
- ^x Weir, Mrs Robert, 490 Terrace Trl E, Lake Quivira 66106-9505
- [†] Wieditz, Mrs Faye, 1351 Caddy Ln, Wichita 67212-4207

LOUISIANA

- ^x Armstrong, Al, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie 70005-1152
- ^x Armstrong, Genelle, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie 70005-1152
- [†] Barlow, Sallie, 3041 8 Fairway View Dr, Denham Springs 70726-7704
- ^x Benge, Dorothy L, 5900 Wheeler Dr, Metairie 70003-1037
- ^x Dazet, Celia, PO Box 625, Empire 70050-0625
- [†] Dyson, Martha, 502 1 Bayou Black Dr, Gibson 70356-3318
- ^s Godeny, Elmer K, 7004 Govenment St, Baton Rouge 70806-6237
- ^x Lindsly, L G, 7734 Wimbledon Ave, Baton Rouge 70810-1770
- ^x McFarland, Mary T, 745 Parlange Dr, Baton Rouge 70806-1844
- tm Ozio, L T, 1009 Ditch Ave, Morgan City 70380-2910
- ^x Ozio, Mrs Yvonne, 1009 Ditch Ave, Morgan City 70380-2910
- ^x Peres, Leora T, 220 S Polk St, Rayne 70578-6437
- ^x Pippin, Jane D, 9996 Highway 165 S, Forest Hill 71430-9660
- [†] Ramirez, Mr George, 1620 Willow Bend Dr, Morgan City 70380-1552

MARYLAND

- [†] Barbi, Kenneth W, 1809 View Top Ct, Annapolis 21401-5873
- [†] Barbi, Susan J F, 1 809 View Top Ct, Annapolis 21401 -5873
- ^{tx} Burns, Marie, 8624 Delege Rd, Baltimore 21237-2107
- [†] Gordon, R Gary, 120 Brinkwood Rd, Brookeville 20833-2307
- ^x Haag, Janet, 524 Murdock Rd, Baltimore 21212-2020

- † Huffman, Shirley, 11988 Simpson Rd, Clarksville 21029-1726
- × Lages, Betty Lou, 3609 Fort Hill Dr, Ellicott City 21043
- ™ Sauter, Ms Beatrice, 1 Silktree Ct, Catonsville 21228-5867
- † Toolan, Sharon, 3903 Nemo Rd, Randallstown 21133-4007
- † Wood, Beryl J, 1134 Hudson Rd, Cambridge 21613-3234

MASSACHUSETTS

- × Balonis, Marcia, 25 Golden Dr, Easthampton 01027-2565
- † Clark Jr, Robert A, 48 Newhall St, Malden 02148-7055
- ™ Courage, Alice M, 1830 Main St Apt 39, Tewksbury 01876-4715
- † Dow, Charles M, 12 Mount Vernon St Apt 38, Melrose 02176-5267
- † Eaton, Peggy, 12 Matchett St, Brighton 02135-1505

MINNESOTA

- × Bann, Mrs Ruth, 680 Marigold Ter NE, Fridley 55432-5641
- § Donaho, Jane, 1533 Grantham St, Saint Paul 55108-1449
- § Frilseth, Ellen S, 719 Emerald Rdg, Roseville 55113-6736
- † Graf, Gail, 9207 4th Ave S, Bloomington 55420-3721
- † Graf, James S, 9207 4th Ave S, Bloomington 55420-3721
- × Harrington, Dolores, 1620 Gardena Ave NE, Fridley 55432-5818
- ™ Johnson, Retha N, 5105 W 62nd St, Edina 55436-2619
- ™ Johnson, Sharon E, 6657 E Shadow Lake Dr, Circle Pines 55014-1350
- § Kiley, Kimberly, 8601 Edinbrook Xing Apt 228, Brooklyn Park, 55443-4009
- × Lahti, Kathy, 4157 Oliver Ave NW, Annandale 55302-3614
- † Officer, Sandy, 8920 Southwood Dr, Bloomington 55437-1744
- × Paron, Mrs Marino, 7536 County Road 5 NE, North Branch 55056-6335
- § Podany, Gail, 5256 Beachside Dr, Minnetonka 55343-4322
- × Trapp, Mrs Monroe, 1 Indian Hills Dr, Circle Pines 55014-4503
- § Werness, Barbara, 13055 Shenandoah Blvd NW, Coon Rapids 55448-7034
- † Zondlo, Mrs Charles, 3326 Lincoln St NE, Minneapolis 55418-1454

MISSISSIPPI

- § Brasfield, Brenda M, 6210 Spring Creek Dr, Olive Branch 38654-9360
- ME Wicht, Miss Jane, 203 Broad St, Hattiesburg 39401-3604

MISSOURI

- † Amelung, Nancy, 9708 Greenwood Ter, Saint Louis 63119-1304
- † Anderson, Dorothy, 1016 Maplewood Dr, Columbia 65203-1856
- † Blanton, Helen, 622 Riverside Dr, Saint Charles 63304-7945
- × Britton, James L, 3906 SW Harbor Dr, Lees Summit 64082-4633
- § Bruning, Allison, 2503 Lilac Dr, Columbia 65202-1227
- § Burns, Sandra K, 6801 E Bannister Rd, Kansas City, 64134-1108
- † Burr, Carolyn E, 910 Almond Hill Ct, Manchester 63021-7004
- † Campbell, Ethel M, 5350 E Farm Road 168, Rogersville 65742-8424
- × Carson, Doris F, 1702 S Joplin Ave, Joplin 64804-0649
- × Donnell, Ramona, PO Box 959, Carl Junction 64834-0959
- × Dublinski, Mrs Susan, 328 Morgan Trl, Saint Peters 63376-3779
- † Dunlap, Gary N, 41 89 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro 63050-2708
- § Dunlap, Pat, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro 63050-2708
- † Eaklor, Lavera 1, 5724 Oleatha Ave, Saint Louis 63139-1903
- † Evensen, Mrs Marilyn, 532 Kingridge Dr, Ballwin 63011-2748
- × Golubski, Linda, 1416 NW A St, Blue Springs 64015-3605
- † Hamilton, Mrs Virginia, 7 Carole Ln, Saint Louis 63131-2539
- ™ Hamtil, Marion A., 27 Brook Ln, Saint Charles 63304-8118

- × Hapner, Mrs Susan, 35 Ridge Point Dr, Chesterfield 63017-2718
- × Hart, Patricia M, 3350 Blue Ridge Blvd, Independence 64052-1068
- ™ Hill, Sue 1, 12201 E 45th Ter S, Independence 64055-5801
- † Loveland, Marsha D, 11303 S Alley Jackson Rd, Grain Valley, 64029-9506
- ™ Meister, Mrs Carl, 13457 Tesson Ferry Rd, Saint Louis 63128-4010
- × Miller, Ardath L, 529 Ranch Dr, Manchester 6301 13948
- † Payne, Peggy R, 108 S Elizabeth St, Hallsville 65255-9429
- × Proctor, Mrs. Harold A, 10000 Womall Rd Apt 3301, Kansas City 64114-4368
- × Russom, Fran, 7022 Ethel Ave, Saint Louis 63117-1919
- † Schaaf, Marian R, 23 1 04 E Adams Rd, Independence 64058-2400
- × Taylor, Tricia A, 9300 E 90th Pl, Kansas City 641 38-4775
- × Wells, Esther Edwards, 948 Fair Oaks Ct, Liberty 64068-9464
- ™ Wilson, Mrs Roma, 4249 Michigan Ave Apt 1011, Saint Louis 63111-1137
- † Wolverton, Wilma J, 8505 S Karr Rd, Grain Valley 64029-9122

NEBRASKA

- § Ahlman, Shannon, 310 N Walnut St, Grand Island 68801-5960
- § Larson, Karen, 5605 N 78th Ave, Omaha 68134-2220
- × Stork, Joyce, 2501 E 23rd Ave S, Fremont 68025-2478
- † Stork, Kent, 2501 E 23rd Ave S, Fremont 68025-2478

NEVADA

- † Mark, Carol J, 1823 Fairlie Ct, Sparks 89434-8883
- † Schmidt, Betty L, 318 Fodrin Way, Sparks 89431-5171
- † Selleck, Jann, 12890 Fellowship Way, Reno 89511-8658

NEW JERSEY

- † Amao, Susan E, 340 Glenwood Ave, Burlington 08016-2513
- † Borey, Mrs. Paul E, 251 Vista View Dr, Mahwah 7430
- † Brown, Laurel W, 1 39 Evergreen Dr, Willingboro 08046-2446
- ™ Buschke, Mrs. Edward W., 11 Drumlin Dr, Morris Plains 07950-2718
- § Church, Barbara, 103 Stratford Rd, Dumont 07628-1142
- † Cichocki, Karyn, 79 Beaver Run Rd, Lafayette 07848-3112
- § De Simon, Joseph, 749 Park Ave, Oradell 07649-2009
- † Fischer, Jill G, 59 River Bend Rd, Berkeley Heights 07922-1812
- † Friedman, Mrs Florence, 181 Elm St, Tenafly 07670-3032
- † Hill, Mr Fred, 88 Horseshoe Ln S, Columbus 08022-1056
- × Jasaitis, Dale K, 72 Old York Rd, Bordentown 08505-2912
- † Johnson, Mrs Becky, 345 Roosevelt Ln, Kenilworth 07033-1524
- † Kurzynski, Robert, 270 Washington Ave, Clifton 07011-3122
- § Lang, Colleen, 216 Edgemere Dr, Toms River 08755-1160
- † Lueschen, Beverly J, 30 Farm Rd Apt 3, Somerville 08876-4462
- † Lueschen, Bill, 30 Famm Rd Apt 3, Somerville 08876-4462
- † Murasko, Mrs J, 95 Connolly Dr, Milltown 08850-2103
- ™ Riemer, Janet, 256 Pennington Harbourton Rd, Pennington 08534-4007
- † Senna, Frank, 13 Harvard Way, Oakland 07436-3501
- † Skalski, Sandra, 516 MacIntosh Dr, Mullica Hill 08062-9474
- × Thurman, Gary, 2028 Old York Rd, Burlington 08016-9767
- × Thurman, Mrs Gary, 2028 Old York Rd, Burlington 08016-9767
- † Winfield, Cecelia, 972A Village Dr E, North Brunswick 08902-2821

NEW MEXICO

- † Bowden, Jo Ellen, 407 La Veta Dr NE, Albuquerque 87108-1401
- † Garrison, Agatha, HC I Box 35-A, Estancia 87016
- § Holmes, Ruth, 93 Moraga St, Belen 87002-6019
- † Iskra, Calista, 4700 Sherwood St NE, Albuquerque 87109-2820
- § Moreno, Mary Ann, 4420 Avenida del Sol NE, Albuquerque 87110-6179

- ¹ Schmierer, Margaret, 5010 Crownpoint Ct NW, Albuquerque 87120-1113
- ¹ Tallant, Joy, 4305 Cobblestone Pl NE, Albuquerque 87109-2909
- ^S Wells, Deborah, 460 1 Pedroncelli Ct NW, Albuquerque 87107-3472
- ¹ Wells, Garald, 4601 Pedroncelli Ct NW, Albuquerque 87107-3472

NEW YORK

- ¹ Banchik, Lillian H, PO Box 222125, Great Neck 11022-2125
- ^S Barthel, Frank, 102 Melvin Dr, Syracuse 13212-4219
- ^S Best, Catherine F, PO Box 242, 6970 Convent St, Croghan 13327-0242
- ^M Bradford, Edward, 8525 86th St, Woodhaven 11421-1203
- ¹ Burdick, Doug, 55 Rosemount St, Rochester 14620-4205
- ¹ Burrell, Carol Ann, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fishkill 12524-2446
- ¹ Burrell, Stephen, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fishkill 12524-2446
- ¹ Califano, Margaret A, 72 Glendale Rd, Latham 12110-4229
- ^M Champion, Ethel W., 8848 Van Hosen Rd, Clay 13041-9604
- ^S Dimon, Colin, 833 E Circle Dr, Vestal 13850-3138
- ^S Ellison, Barbara Whiting, 264 Shanty Creek Rd, Central Square 13036-3416
- ^S Evans, Diane Lombardo, 52 Kristin Dr, Rochester 14624-1048
- ¹ Fraley, Susan J, 8 Vine St, Albany 12203-2918
- ^X Ghossn, Rose, 8712 Jamaica Ave, Woodhaven 11421-2036
- ^X Gugliada, Mrs Frank, 16 Meeker St, Staten Island 10306-1232
- ¹ Gutberlet, M J., 103 Hallbar Rd, Rochester 14626-1108
- ¹ Hart, Annabelle, 118 S Crescent Dr, Rome 13440-4576
- ^S Heinrich, Marilyn, 7 Ellsworth Pl, East Northport 11731-5723
- ^S Hershkowitz, Annette N, 159 Parkway Dr N, Commack 11725-4908
- ^X Klein, Carolyn, 10239 85th Rd, Richmond Hill, 11418-1107
- ^S Kot, Monica L, 8184 Eileen Ave, Cicero 13039-9564
- ^X Kroll, Paul F, 4325 Two Rod Rd, Harmony Hill Farm, East Aurora 14052-9693
- ^S Leary, Michael, 32 West Ave Apt 2, Fairport 14450-2102
- ^S Leary, Sharon, 32 West Ave Apt 2, Fairport 14450-2102
- ¹ Lohan, Diane, 499 Keith Ln, West Islip 11795-3433
- ¹ Macaluso, Rosemary, 40162 47th St, Little Neck 11363-1637
- ¹ McDonald, Paula, 250 W 85th St Apt 8A, New York 10024-3217
- ¹ Montgomery, Mrs Eileen, 248 Marilynn St, East Islip 11730-3306
- ^M Oswald, Mrs Frederick, 5 Euston Rd, Garden City 11530-4107
- ^S Palagonia, Joseph, 84 164th Ave # 08, Howard Beach 11414-3601
- ¹ Perras, Edward M, 90 Springhollow Dr, Cohoes 12047-1233
- ^S Perrott, Barbara D, 5 Downing Ave, Newburgh 12550-1923
- ¹ Purtell, Sherry, 47 Robin Ln, Rensselaer 12144-9635
- ¹ Red Elk, Priscilla C, 205 Point Pleasant Rd, Rochester 14622-3330
- ^S Robinson, Kuo-Shih Ma, PO Box 9, Naples 14512-0009
- ^X Robinson, Ralph, PO Box 9, Naples 14512-0009
- TM Rotando, Mrs Kathryn, 131 Taft Ave, Long Beach 11561-3831
- ^{TX} Rutmayer, Mrs Kenneth, 109 Curtis Dr, Sound Beach 11789-2254
- ¹ Schirtzer, Claire J, 158 W Hudson St, Long Beach 11561-1925
- ^S Thompson, Peter, 212 Locksley Rd, Syracuse 13224-1827
- ¹ Vogt, Dorothy, 1 80 Waco St, Lindenhurst 11757-5338
- ¹ Wagman, Fayanne B, 52 Harper Dr, Pittsford 14534-3104
- ¹ Wagman, Irwin, 52 Harper Dr, Pittsford 14534-3104
- ^X Weber, Mrs Jane, 50 Belknap Dr, Northport 11768-3402
- ¹ Wildman Jr, James A, 133 Rosemont Dr, Syracuse 13205-3011
- ¹ Yager, Robin, 3643 Pine Rd, Blossvale 13308-1912
- ¹ Yager, William, 3643 Pine Rd, Blossvale 13308-1912

NORTH CAROLINA

- ¹ Abplanalp, Linda, 3134 Truitt Dr, Burlington 27215-4660
- ¹ Bunn, Kemmit M, RR 5 Box 613B, Snow Hill 28580-9446

- ^X Bunn, Lorena, RR 5 Box 613B, Snow Hill 28580-9446
- ¹ McElwain, Mrs Lauretta, 761 Hinton Creek Rd, Ellenboro 28040-7742

OHIO

- ^X Bartley, Betty L, 3920 Monterey Ave, Springfield 45504-3513
- ^S Beaty, Janice, 900 Kenwyn Ct, Columbus 43220-4160
- ^X Black, Mrs George, 3548 Alabama Ave SW, Dalton 44618-9515
- ¹ Boos, Donna M, 3651 US Highway 322, Williamsfield 44093-8730
- ^X Borton, Mrs Lewis, 4864 US Route 68 N, Yellow Springs 45387-9748
- ¹ Bradney, Martha, 1104 Anderson St, Piqua 45356-4348
- ^M Garner, M E, 1010 Edgewood St SE, North Canton 44720-3230
- ^X Grinstead, Evelyn G., 1864 Berkshire Rd, Columbus 43221-3817
- ¹ Hancock, Pat, PO Box 8085, West Chester 45069-8085
- ¹ Harris, Betty, 438 E Clearview Ave, Worthington 43085-3124
- ¹ Holtzman, Sharon, 6971 Olentangy Ln, Cincinnati 45244-3146
- ¹ Jones, Shirley, 3769 W State Route 185, Piqua 45356-9324
- ^X Lott, Eileen, 523 Sturgeon Dr, Akron 443 194311
- ^X Lusk, Elmer C, 1173 Oakland Ave, Columbus 43212-3316
- ¹ Morabito, Gertrude, 7057 Brightwood Dr, Painesville 44077-2117
- ^X Neumann, Linda A, 11620 Mapleridge Dr, North Royalton 44133-2904
- ^{TX} Owens, Mrs Linda, 1762 Stemwood Dr, Columbus 43228-9716
- ¹ Palm, Doris T, 1780 Tea Rose Dr, Fairborn 45324-9628
- TM Savage, Emilie B, 39 Mead Dr, Chillicothe 45601-3737
- ¹ Stotler, Mrs Terena, 1027 State Route 589, Sidney 45365-8783

OKLAHOMA

- ^X Cotten, Jeanne M, 4402 E 105th Pl, Tulsa 74137-6223
- TM Howlett, Rose, 4916 E 38th Pl, Tulsa 74135-5529
- ^X McCawley, Edna R., 1721 S Fulton Ave, Tulsa 74112-6929
- ^X Sutton, Mrs Pat, 1707 S 77th East Ave, Tulsa 74112-7817

OREGON

- ^S Duvendack, Christy, 17389 Banyon Ln, Lake Oswego 97034-6901
- ^S Miller, Valerie, 4108 SE Risley Ave, Portland 97267-2938
- ^S Powers, Kathleen, 3241 W Hills Rd, Philomath 97370-9553
- ¹ Ross, Elise M, 634 SW 54th St, Corvallis 97333-2928

PENNSYLVANIA

- ¹ Allen, Lee, 15 Hollyhock Ln, Levittown 19055-1319
- ¹ Allen, Marion, 15 Hollyhock Ln, Levittown 19055-1319
- ^S Branson, Betsy, 712 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown 19031-1302
- ¹ Branson, Enid, 6 45 Meadowbrook Ave, Ambler 19002-4919
- ^X Callahan, Mrs Betty, 6 Pennsylvania Ave, Fairless Hills 19030-1318
- ¹ Cooper, Frances M, 492 Pinecrest Rd, Springfield 19064-3312
- ^S Criswell, Mrs Judi, 1105 Darby Rd, Havertown 19083-3806
- ¹ Eckard, Kurt H, 453 Seville St, Philadelphia 19128-3632
- ^X Gershon, Marianne, 849 Lauren Ln, Hatfield 19440-3269
- ¹ Hanna, Susan, 472 Store Rd, Harleysville 19438-2502
- ¹ Jones, Mrs. Richard I, 909 Louise Ln, West Chester 19382-7919
- ^S Lubinski, Robert, 438 Ridge Rd, New Brighton 15066-4233
- ^X Lyons, Kazuko, 38 Indian Creek Dr, Levittown 19057-2229
- ^{TX} Lyons, William R, 38 Indian Creek Dr, Levittown 19057-2229
- ¹ Reed, Craig R, 119 August Ln, Lansdale 19446-6715
- ¹ Reed, Mrs Joan, 119 August Ln, Lansdale 19446-6715
- ¹ Roth, Mrs Elizabeth, 105 Carleton Rd, Wallingford 19086-6116
- ^X Shannon, Mrs Laura, 8845 Norwood Ave, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia 19118-2710
- ¹ Smith, Judith, 7808 Conwell Rd, Laverock 19038-7205
- TM Tinari, Mrs Anne, 2325 Valley Rd # 190, Huntingdon Valley 19006-6007
- ¹ Wezel, Penelope, RR 2 Box 225J, Ulster 18850-9649

RHODE ISLAND

- ^s Gimblet, Susan, 10 Kenyon Rd, Tiverton, 02878-1618
- ^x Warren, Ruth, 99 Hancock St Apt 254, Tiverton 02878-2360

SOUTH CAROLINA

- ^x Mims, Sandra P, 34 Waterway Island Dr, Isle of Palms 29451-2728
- ^x Short, Mrs Vere, 100 Dorsetshire Downs, Summerville 29485-8608

TENNESSEE

- ^j Adamson, Peggy, 1613 Hampton Ave, Nashville 37207-4309
- ^j Ellis, Judy, 61 10 Barrentine Dr, Bartlett 38134-5934
- ^{TX} Pair, Mrs Iona, 3578 Country Lane Cv, Memphis 38133-2802
- ^x Shirley, Mrs Ann, 7150 Cedar Rd, Bartlett 38135-1904
- ^x Stauffer, Helen, 2973 Falkirk Rd, Memphis 38128-2919
- ^j Steele, Katherine, 1736 Cornelia Ln, Memphis 38117-7004
- ^M Willets, Floretta A, 811 Sunset Dr, Kingston 37763-2131
- ^M Willets, Nancy D, 811 Sunset Dr, Kingston 37763-2131

TEXAS

- ^x Acree, Yvonne, 3235 Lockmoor Ln, Dallas 75220-1631
- ^j Altenburg, Suzanne Patricia, 12633 Memorial Dr Apt 82, Houston 77024-4843
- ^s Baumgardner, Cathy, 6611 Cloverbend St, San Antonio 78238-1308
- ^j Becerra Jr, Hector, 212 Briarcliff Dr, San Antonio 78213-1935
- ^j Bullard, Marjorie, 6301 Meadowvista Dr Apt 1212, Corpus Christi 78414-2639
- ^j Carpenter, Janice, 1321 Whitehall Dr, Plano 75023-6700
- ^j Carter, Judith, 19506 Mills Meadow Ln, Houston 77094-3412
- ^s Catstiglione, Janet M, 313 Plantation Oak Ave, Lake Dallas 75065-2206
- ^M Chilcutt, Myrtle, 1 100 Cleckler Ave, Fort Worth 76111-4354
- ^j Clark, Anita D, 309 Lakeway Dr, Benbrook 76126-3104
- ^x Click, Elaine, 10251 Helmsdale St, Houston 77043-1810
- ^x Corondan, Mary, 7205 Dillon Ct, Plano 75024-3853
- ^j Crawford, Mrs M K, 735 Oban Dr, San Antonio 78216-6145
- ^x Curry, Eunice, 617 Mimosa Dr, Denton 76201-0858
- ^x Davidson, Janice, 941 Fm 2377, Red Oak 75154-7401
- ^j Davidson, Ronald, 941 Fm 2377, Red Oak 75154-7401
- ^x Davis, Grace, 3418 Urban Dr, Garland 75041-4628
- ^x Dixon, Mrs Billie, 508 Christi Ln, Coppell 75019-4055
- ^j Dubose, Gloria, PO Box 724, Georgetown 78627-0724
- ^x Early, Mrs Robert D, 5916 Walla Ave, Fort Worth 76133-2716
- ^j Fergon, Peggy, 7517 Overhill Rd, Fort Worth 76116-9017
- ^M Forcht, Mrs. Brennan A, 833 McKinney St, Arlington 76012-4617
- ^j Fort, Mural, 3921 Honey Ln, North Richland Hills 76180-8760
- TM Foster, Bill, 3610 Gray Dr, Mesquite 75150-2121
- ^M Foster, Paula, 3610 Gray Dr, Mesquite 75150-2121
- ^j Froboese, Ken, 32005 Ih 10 W, Boerne 78006-9240
- ^j Fuster, Blanca, 1225 Americana Ln Apt 1205, Mesquite 75150-4671
- ^x Garlick, Maxine S, 2730 Arrowhead Dr, Copperas Cove 76522-7201
- ^x Gibbs, Dolores, 608 Larue Dr, San Marcos 78666-2410
- ^x Goeke, Ruth, 4851 Pieper Rd, Brenham 77833-7072
- ^x Goins, Gerri, 11030 Silkwood Dr, Houston 77031-2220
- ^{TX} Golla, Billie, 955 Mission Hills Dr, New Braunfels 78130-6676
- ^s Goss, Nancy, 1710 Deerfield Dr, Austin 78741-3705
- ^j Hall, Marilyn P, 5905 Imogene St, Houston 77074-7729
- ^{TX} Hall, Meredith M, 922 E 14th St, Houston 77009-5004
- ^s Hamey, Irene, 8323 Chivalry St, San Antonio 78250-2408
- ^M Hudnall, Mrs Gladys, 6909 Bumet Ln, Austin 78757-2430
- ^x Hummer, Alma, 10606 Sunflower Ln, San Antonio 78213-1623
- ^j Jensen, Judith Ann, 3310 Hillpark Ln, Carrollton 75007-2734
- ^j Johnson, Dea V., 610 Mauze Dr, San Antonio 78216-3711
- ^j Johnson, Mr. Wm H, 610 Mauze Dr, San Antonio 78216-3711

- ^j Kimbro, Joyce, 4107 Wyldwood Rd, Austin 78739-3010
- ^j Leifeste, Connie L, 12000 Riverview Dr, Woodway 76712-7608
- ^x Lewis, Mrs Velma, 6309 Firth Rd, Fort Worth 76116-2042
- ^x Liggett, Laura, 17411 Rustington Dr, Spring 77379-5009
- ^x Linson, Virginia, 326 Drexel Dr, Grapevine 76051-5101
- ^j Lopez, Arturo, 1000 Amur St, Mesquite 75150-4211
- ^j McElhannon, Bonnie, 305 Audra Cir, Rhome 76078-3403
- ^j McEwen, Onalee H, 18103 Barbuda Ln, Houston 77058-3421
- ^j McGraw, Donna, 8207 Colonial Oaks Ln, Spring 77379-3908
- ^s Moore, Penny, 1550 County Road 139, Hutto 78634-5420
- ^x Nabers, John P, 714 El Toro Ln, Houston 77062-5008
- ^j Nicholas, Anne M, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton 76208-3428
- ^{ME} Padgett, Mrs T W, 2005 Mill Creek Dr, Arlington 76010-5618
- ^j Nicholas, Dr. Richard A, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton 76208-3428
- ^s Peters, Bobbie, 909 Cardinal Ln, Paige 78659-9741
- ^x Pittman, Hortense, 7416 County Road 129, Celina 75009-4704
- ^x Pittman, Jessie R., 7416 County Road 129, Celina 75009-4704
- ^s Pursley, Mrs Joseph, 10606 Man O War Ave, Austin 78719-9606
- TM Ramser, Mrs Charles, 2413 Martin St, Wichita Falls 76308-1908
- ^s Range, Terri, 2350 Mockingbird Ln, Garland 75042-8329
- ^j Reddell, Janey E, 2408 Cedar Ln, Schertz 78154-2741
- ^j Reuss, Phyllis, 3924 Bordeaux Cir, Flower Mound 75028-7047
- ^x Rexilius, Jane, 5634 Yarwell Dr, Houston 77096-3922
- ^x Rhodes, Mrs. M W, PO Box 57, Manchaca 78652-0057
- ^j Robinson, Shirley, 3305 Cedarcrest Dr, Pasadena 77503-2121
- ^j Rogers, Jo Anne, PO Box 653, Copperas Cove 76522-0653
- ^j Sanders, Sandy, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio 78221-1446
- ^j Sanders, Shirley, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio 78221-1446
- ^s Saunders, Mary Lou, 2214 Saharah Dr, Garland 75044-7165
- ^j Schrimsher, Jo Anne, 2205 College Dr, Victoria 77901-4474
- ^j Smith, Mary A, 5302 Riviera Dr, Wichita Falls 76310-3010
- ^j Spachek, Steven, 234 W Mally Blvd, San Antonio 78221-3832
- ^x Stallings, Mary, 3709 Glenmont Dr, Fort Worth 76133-2953
- ^x Stenger, Joyce A, 714 El Toro Ln, Houston 77062-5008
- ^j Storey, Mrs. Susan, 110 Rogers Ridge St, San Marcos 78666-4715
- ^s Sugg, William, 805 Rex Ln, Garland 75040-5737
- ^j Taggart, Mrs. Byron E, 326 Barbara Dr, San Antonio 78216-7405
- ^j Tracy, Betty, 6103 Royal Pt, San Antonio 78239-1540
- ^M Turner, Mrs Byron, PO Box 29727, Dallas 75229-0727
- ^x Walbrick, Mary, 5235 Kingston Dr, Wichita Falls 76310-3029
- ^M Wheeler, Ruth, PO Box 225829, Dallas 75222-5829
- ^x Wright, Mrs Floyd, 2106 Woodland Park Dr, Houston 77077-6428
- TM Young, Mrs Frances, 6109 Shadow Mountain Dr, Austin 78731-4162

UTAH

- ^M Jones, Mrs John H, 1786 Millcreek Way, Salt Lake City 84106-3234
- ^s Terry, Rulon, 748 E Antelope Dr, Layton 84041-8607

VIRGINIA

- ^s Akers, Cathy S, 11912 Smoketree Blvd, Fredericksburg 22407-8538
- TM Boland, Mary A, 6415 Wilcox Ct, Alexandria 22310-3329
- ^s Dudley, Roseanne C, 409 Dune St, Norfolk 23503-5330
- ^M Giangierelli, Mary Ann, 2710 Viking Dr, Hemdon 20171 -2400
- ^j Grundy, Alice D, 3018 Hungary Spring Rd, Richmond 23228-2420
- ^j Hedgepeth, Kathryn A, 4024 Cutshaw Ave, Richmond 23230-3930
- ^j Hoffmann, Susan B, 801 N Villier Ct, Virginia Beach 23452-3941
- TM Jones, Laurene, 3430 Luttrell Rd, Annandale 22003-1269
- ^j Knight, P, 1796 Stonehaven Ln, Virginia Beach 23464-703 1
- ^j Long, Sharon A, 1546 Heritage Hill Dr, Richmond 23233-4332
- ^M Nuyianes, Opal L, 12808 Thompson Rd, Fairfax 22033-1604
- ^j Schmidt, William C, 500 Danray Dr, Richmond 23227-1927
- TM Skelton, Elinor, 3910 Larchwood Rd, Falls Church 22041-1108

- ¹ Van, Carol, 300 Brittain Ln, Hampton 23669-1052
- ^{TX} Wilson, John E, 10007 Bent Tree Ln, Manassas 20111-4222

WISCONSIN

- ¹ Barry, Nancy, 2533 Memorial Dr, Green Bay 54303-6231
- ¹ Degner, Kevin W, 1741 Iowa St, Oshkosh 54901-6828
- ¹ Eberle, Mildred, N93W17229 Devonwood Rd, Menomonee Falls 53051-1405
- ¹ Fossum, Mrs Dorothy, 3177 N 95th St, Milwaukee 53222-3522

- ^S Fox, Mrs Robert, 1235 N Westfield St, Oshkosh 54901-3218
- ^S Garvens, Arlene, 30630 Outboard Rd, Elroy 53929-8834
- ¹ Heider, Catherine, 4132 Spring Rd, Omro 54963-9767
- ¹ Judd, Janice, W6090 County Road P, Monroe 53566-9716
- ^S Lewis, Mable, W8934 Davis Rd, Browntown 53522-9741
- TM Mengsol, Ruth E, 5616 W Cairdel Ln, Mequon 53092-1190
- TM Merrell, Mrs Irene, W283 Hillendale Dr, Oconomowoc 53066-5530
- ¹ Streit, Mrs Shirley, N1795 County Rd S, Juda 53550-9768
- ^S West, Eric, 130 Thomson Ln, Oregon 53575-1664

1998 AVSA Affiliated Clubs

(Editors Note: This is the Affiliate list as reported by the AVSA office as of July 1, 1998. Please contact the office regarding any questions or corrections.)

INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

AV ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, INC., Mrs Barbara Pittaway - Secretary, 8 Wangalla Rd, Lane Cove 2066
AV-GESNERIAD SOCIETY OF NSW, Reg Townsend - President, 35 Craigio Ave, Padstow 2211
AVGS OF CANBERRA, INC C/O GRIFFIN CENTRE, Bunda St, Canberra City ACT, 2601
AVS OF QUEENSLAND, Derek Arnold, 7 Barrine Ct, Petrie 4502
AVS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, Mrs E Warwick - President, 15 Kinnear Crescent, Rostrevor 5073
AVS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, Mrs Nal Goulding - President, PO Box 3, South Perth 6951
CI-CENTRAL COAST AVC, Mrs J White - President, 379 Main Rd, Noraville 2263
EARLY MORN AV GROUP, The Librarian, PO Box 186, Mt Waverly 3149
HUNTER VALLEY AVS, Terry Kingdon - President, 55 Butler Ave, Cooranbong 2265
WOLLONGONG AV GROUP, Joan Kerr - President, 1 Pringle Rd, Corrimal 2518

BAHAMAS

BAHAMAS AVS, Mrs Sybil Strachan - President, PO Box GT 2048 Nassau

BERMUDA

Bermuda AVS, Mrs Hattieann Gilbert - President, 16 Valley Ln, Sandys MA05

CANADA ALBERTA

AVS OF CALGARY, Walter Salamanowicz - President, C/O 324 Cantrell Dr SW, Calgary T2W 2C6
EDMONTON AVS, Keith Hussen - AV Representative, #1401 8315 105th St, Edmonton T6E 4H4
GAS CITY AVS, Brenda Naroznick - President, 491 12th St SE, Medicine Hat T1A 1V7
STAMPEDE CITY AVS, Ingrid Nelson - President, 224 Douglas Woods Pt SE, Calgary T2Z 2A7
THE AVS OF CENTRAL ALBERTA, Bertha Lawrence - President, 4206 33 St, Red Deer T4N 0N2

BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE VANCOUVER AVC, Barbara Dawson - President, 303 2250 Se Marine Dr, Vancouver V5P 2S2

MANITOBA

WINNIPEG AVS, Bonnie Batchelor - President, 320 Lake Ridge Rd., Winnipeg R2Y 1K4

NEW BRUNSWICK

FUNDY VIOLET CLUB, Ms Susan Brooks - President, 260 Douglas Avenue, Saint John E2K 1E6
MONCTONIAN AVS, Francine Cain, 45 Wright Dr., Moncton E1E 2H3
ROYAL SAINT PAULIA CLUB, Mrs Susan MacNichol - President, 50 Meadow Cres, Sussex Corner E4E 2Y7

NOVA SCOTIA

ANNAPOLIS VALLEY AVS, Mrs Jean L Stanford - President, Box 683 68 Connaught Ave, Middleton, B0S

FIRST HALIFAX AVS, Dorothy Owens - President, 25 Medford St, Dartmouth B2Y 3C2

ONTARIO

AVSA JUDGES COUNCIL ONTARIO, Doris Brownlie - President, 600 Silvercreek Blvd #80, Mississauga, L5A 2B4
HERITAGE AVS, Mrs Brian Krick - President, 406 Tapleytown Rd, Stoney Creek L8J 3K6
LAKESHORE AVS, Doris Brownlie - President, 600 Silvercreek Blvd #80, Mississauga L5A 2B4
LONDON AVS, Shirley Bellows - President, RR1 Arva, NOM 1C0
OAKVILLE AVS, Mrs Josephina Fitzwilliam - President, 2120 Parkway Dr, Burlington L7P 1S4
OTTAWA AVS, President Richard Harriman, 2395 Ogilvie Rd., Gloucester K1J 7N4
TORONTO AVS, Jean Hamilton - President, 130 Wishing Well Dr, Agincourt M1T 1J7
TORONTO GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Daphne Yaremko - President, 1-211 Pine Valley Dr, London N6J 4W5

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

CHARLOTTETOWN AVS, Mrs Hilda Lewis, 202 Spring Park Rd, Charlottetown C1A 3Y9

QUEBEC

AVS OF GREATER MONTREAL, Nancy Johnston - President, 127 Spartan Crescent, Pointe Claire H9R 3H4
CLUB DES VIOLETES AFRICAINES, Pierrette Marquis - President, 80 Cairns Branby, Granby J2G 6R2
CLUB VIOLETES LONGUEUIL, Rene Martin - President, Cp 21126 Succ Jacques Cartier, 1401 Chemin Chambly, Longueuil J4J 5J4
LES VIOLETES SAGUENEENNES, Patricia Duchesne - President, 3707 Panet, Jonquiere G7X 9J6
SOCIETE DES SAINTPAULIA DE, Nicole Charbonneau - President, 4101 Sherbrooke Rue Est, Montreal H1X 2B2

SASKATCHEWAN

CAREFREE GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Florence Duesterbeck, 2235 Montreal St., Regina S4P 1J7
NUTANA VIOLET CLUB, Alma Jones - President, 1638 E Heights, Saskatoon S7J 3B6

ENGLAND

SAINTPAULIA & HOUSEPLANT SOCIETY, Mrs. F B F Dunningham M B E - Treasurer, 33 Church Rd Newbury Prk, Ilford IG2 7ET

HONG KONG

AVS OF HONG KONG LTD, Lau Hin Cheung - President, PO Box 99075 (T.S.T.), Tsim Sha Tsui Kowloon

JAPAN

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL SAINTPAULIA, Mrs Toshi Kawakami - President, B-604 Tsutsujigaoka-haim, 2-13-3 Shibasaki Chofu-shi, Tokyo 182

MEXICO

PRIMER CLUB DE VIOLETAS, Alejandrina B De Guerrero - President, PO Box 1688, Monterrey N L Cp

PERU

SOCIEDAD PERUANA DE VIOLETAS, PO Box 1413, Lima 18

SOUTH AFRICA

CAPE AVS, Alex Duncan - President, 14 Marion Ave Southfield, Cape Town 7800

KZN AVS, Valerie Airey - President, 1104 the Towers Bamboo Ln, Pinetown 3610

TRANSVAAL AVS, Joan Halford - President, No 2 Newlands Park PO Box 370, Newlands Plaza Pretoria 0049

USAMBARA VIOLET ASA, Rosie Katzeff - President, 168 A Voortrekker Rd, Goodwood 7460

TAIWAN

TAIWAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Fu Chen Tung - President, 4 Lane 61 Kuo Shan 3rd Rd, Kao-Hsiung 804 W Australia

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

ALABAMA AV JUDGES COUNCIL, Sherry Buie - President, 1210 Scenic View Dr, Dothan 36303-1957

CAPITAL CITY AVS OF MONTGOMERY, Linda Boyd - President, 239 Nottingham Rd, Montgomery 36109-3723

COVINGTON AVS, Evelyn Cope - President, RR 2 Box 100, Andalusia 36420-9618

EARLY BIRD VIOLET CLUB, Jane Sherer - President, 5901 Snowville Brent Rd, Dora 35062-2421

HUNTSVILLE AVS, Mrs Doyle Haynes - President, 7900 Regent Cir SW Apt 1, Huntsville

MONTGOMERY AVS, Marty Daves - President, 2051 County Road 59, Prattville 36067-8032

ALASKA

AURORA BOREALIS AVS, Gay Dell Trumblee - President, PO Box 113127, Anchorage 99511-3127

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ARIZONA

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ROADRUNNER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Rosemary Lort - President, 15818 N 52nd St, Scottsdale 85254-1707

TUCSON AVC, Lila Klepper - President, 5561 E. Miles Circle, Tucson 85712

ARKANSAS

BELLA VISTA AVS, Peggy Walsh - President, 9 Yocum Rd, Rogers 72756-9245

GREEN THUMB AVC, Charlotte Jenkins - President, 2116 Dee Ave, Springdale 72762-4039

NORTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS AVS, Danny Tidwell - President, PO Box 326, Mc Rae 72102-0326

CALIFORNIA

SAN MATEO COUNTY AVS, Al Cornibe - President, 197 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz 95060-2442

AV COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Pauline Cook - President, PO Box 147, Loma Linda 92354-0147

AV JUDGES COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, Harriette Poss - President, 12 Kelton Ct, San Mateo 94403-4311

AVS OF SAN FRANCISCO, Anne Jantzen - President, 4001 Via Cristobal, Campbell 95008-2759

AVS OF SOUTH BAY, Nancy Brooks - President, 1238 Peralta Dr, San Jose 95120-5302

AVS OF YUCCA VALLEY, Betty Bosserman - President, PO Box 633, Joshua Tree 92252-0633

AVSA JUDGES COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CA, Jacquie Eisenhut - President, 22800 Eriel Ave, Torrance 90505-3011

BAKERSFIELD AVS, Gloria Aminian - President, 7405 Eliso Ct, Bakersfield 93309-2306

BELLFLOWER AVS, Sharon Coudyser - President, 5761 Eberle St, Lakewood 90713-1838

BURBANK AVS, Susan Eyraud - President, 10729 Sharon Ave, Shadow Hills 91040-1731

CAPITOL CITY AVS, Cindi Nofziger, 256 Cole Ct., Woodland 95695

CARLSBAD AVS, Lynn Sweeney - President, PO Box 7025, Rancho Santa Fe 92067-7025

DELTA GESNERIAD AND AVS, L Mae Mendes - President, 3521 Montclair Rd, Cameron Park 95682-9079

DIABLO VALLEY AVS, Vivien Ragan, 2206 Beach St., Concord 94519-2506

FANCY BLOOMERS, Sherry Olson - President, 799 Park Glen Dr, Windsor 95492-8923

FOOTHILL AVS, Cynthia Groth - President, 551 E Duell, Azusa 91702

GRANADA HILLS AVS, Peggy McDivitt - President, 9355 Burnet Ave, North Hills 91343-2304

HUMBOLDT COUNTY AVS, Linda Bettiga - President, PO Box 68, Loleta 95551-0068

LOS ANGELES AVS, Teri Kawai - President, 21105 Cancun, Mission Viejo 92692-4917

MONTROSE AVS, Carroll R. McCarroll - President, 4100 Perlita Ave, Los Angeles 90039-1312

NORTHERN CA COUNCIL OF AVS, Al Cornibe - President, 197 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz 95060-2442

ORANGE COUNTY AVS, Dorothy Kosowsky - President, 712 Cunningham Dr, Whittier 90601-1016

POMONA VALLEY AVS, Pat Vinciguerra - President, 1350 San Bernardino Rd Spc 169, Upland

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AVS, Bernadine Poulsen - President, 7918 Teesdale Ave, North Hollywood

SAN JOAQUIN AVS, Evelyn E Stein - President, 1314 Lincoln Blvd, Tracy 95376-3210

SIERRA VIOLET LOVERS, Marjorie Lewis - President, 1481 San Lucia Ave, Porterville 93257-1446

SOUTH COAST AVS, Jacque Eisman - President, 22800 Eriel Ave, Torrance 90505-3011

THOUSAND OAKS AVS, Mary Pat Weber - President, 4290 Mistymeadow St, Moorpark 93021-2746

TOWN AND COUNTRY AVS, Aneita Richardson - President, 37038 Alder Dr, Mentone 92359-9593

TUSTANA AVS, Denzel M. Probert - President, 2215 Santa Ana Ave, Costa Mesa 92627-1835

VENTURA COUNTY AVS, Florence Naylor - President, 478 Arcade Dr, Ventura 93003-4502

COLORADO

GLOXINIA GESNERIAD GROWERS, Norah Otto - President, 33 Frontier Ln, Magnolia Star Route, Nederland 80466

GOLDEN OLDIES VIOLETS, Katherine Brago - President, 1340 S Eaton St, Lakewood 80232-5834

HAPPINESS IS AVS, Millissa Culver - President, 14534 N 107th St, Longmont 80501-9782

HI COUNTRY JUDGES WORKSHOP, Parker E. Tracy - President, 620 S 41st St, Boulder 80303-5915

HI HOPES STUDY CLUB, Mrs Mae Ellen Rogers - President, 5737 E Floyd Ave, Denver 80222-7515

LOVELAND SWEETHEART VIOLETTES, Karen Anderson - President, 14442 Garfield St, Brighton 80601-7738

PIKES PEAK AVS, Shirley Stille - President, 1709 Sherman St, Colorado Springs 80909-2428

PUEBLO AV CLUB, Mrs Eilene Even - President, 53 Sovereign Cir Apt K, Pueblo 81005-1800

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AV COUNCIL, Karen Anderson - President, 4771 Cathy Ln, Erie 80516-9039

THE AVS OF DENVER CHAPTER 1, Parker E. Tracy - President, 620 S 41st St, Boulder 80303-5915

THE VIOLETEERS, Linda Thompson - President, 3351 S Field St Apt 168, Denver 80227-4632

ULTRA VIOLET CLUB, Geneva Holmes - President, 8810 Hooker Way, Westminster 80030-3336

CONNECTICUT

NAUGATONIC AVS, Mrs Edna Rourke - President, 99 Old Stratford Rd, Shelton 06484-6129
NUTMEG STATE AVS, President Vivian Hiltz, 99 Old Stratford Rd., Shelton CT 06484-6129
SILVERMINE AVS, Jean Simons - President, 26 Jennie Ln, Westport 06880-6001
THIMBLE ISLAND AVS, Carolyn Gaffan - President, 450 2nd Ave, West Haven 06516-5135
WINDSOR AVS, Marcia Kilpatrick - President, 139 Kenyon Rd, Hampton 06247-1112

DELAWARE

DELAWARE AVS, Elaine McCracken - President, 14 S Stuyvesant Dr, Wilmington 19809-3432

FLORIDA

AV ASSOCIATION OF GARDENERS, Debbie Chapman - President, 2829 Blind Owl Dr, Orlando 32822-7843
AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA, Jo Anne Martinez - President, 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa 33613-1048
AVC OF DAYTONA, Patricia Crowley - President, 3051 Princeton Ave, Daytona Beach 32118-3130
AVS OF FORT WALTON BEACH, Marcella Wright - President, 1009 Juniper Ave, Niceville 32578-2118
AVS OF JACKSONVILLE, Chris Hall - President, 1236 Catalina Rd E, Jacksonville 32216-3220
AVS OF PENSACOLA, George Starr - President, 2602 Graupera St, Pensacola 32507-1637
CENTRAL FLORIDA AVS, Patti Schwindt - President, 1625 S Delaney Ave, Orlando 32806-3054
EDISON AVC, Shirley A Davis - President, PO Box 6083, Fort Myers Beach 33932-6083
FANTASY VC, Linda Nelson - President, 4044 Majestic Oak Ln, Brooksville 34602-9112
FIRST LAKELAND AVS, Bill Mingee - President, 827 Sugar Pl, Lakeland 33801-7508
GULF AVC, Blanche Foltz - President, 918 SE 28 Terr Cape Coral 33904
HEART OF JACKSONVILLE AVS, Bobbi Johannsen - President, 14029 Fortunado Rd, Jacksonville 32225-2003
MID-POLK AVS, Audrey Sears - President, 506 Avenue I SE, Winter Haven 33880-3777
MIRACLE STRIP AVS, Farris Simmons - President, 2923 Kirkwell Ave, Panama City 32405-5738
SARASOTA AVS, Deborah Conley - President, 2824 Wilkinson Rd, Sarasota 34231-2800
SUMMER LACE AVS, Gail Chase - President, 1528 Pineview Dr, Tallahassee 32301-4918
SUNCOAST AVS, Sandra Williams - President, 102 9th St E, Tierra Verde 33715-2203
TAMPA AVS, Jo Anne Martinez - President, 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa 33613-1048
TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY, John Menish - President, 121 Brentshire Dr, Brandon 33511-4815
THE NITE BLOOMERS AVS, Maxine Cherry - President, 219 Brookview Dr N, Jacksonville 32225-6610
THE VIOLET PATCH OF SOUTH FLORIDA, Jennifer Kellum - President, 2418 Tortugas Ln, Fort Lauderdale 33312-4638
TREASURE COAST AVS, Mary Van Der Lugt - President, 1009 S Header Canal Rd, Fort Pierce 34945-4604
UPPER PINELLAS AVS, Mary Ann Fischer - President, 596 Laguna Vista Ct, Largo 33771-2763

GEORGIA

AVC OF GREATER ATLANTA, Laura Walker - President, 1081 N Jamestown Rd Apt F, Decatur 30033-3682
GEORGIA AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS CLUB, Joan F Cumpton - President, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner Robins 31088-4170

GEORGIA STATE AV COUNCIL, Sarah McGaha - President, 4925 Howard Rd, Cumming 30040-5207
HIGH HOPES VC OF SOUTH ATLANTA, Ramona Like - President, 6423 Woodstone Ter, Morrow 30260-1734
MASTER CITY AV & GESNERIAD, Sharon Miles - President, 1954 Liberty Church Rd, Hephzibah 30815-4421
TARA AVC, Loraine Leonard - President, 112 Dunwoody Cir, Griffin 30223-6439

HAWAII

AVS OF HAWAII, Gwen Shigekane - President, 46-312 Auna St, Kaneohe 96744-4111

ILLINOIS

AVS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS, Edward Johnson - President, 4901 N Ozanam Ave, Norridge 60656-3203
BARRINGTON BLOOMERS AVS, Nikki Collard - President, 27547 N Forest Garden Rd, Wauconda 60084-2841
EVENING BLOOMERS AVS, Susan Dean - President, 442 N Dean St, Bushnell 61422-1229
FORT MASSAC AVS, Evelyn De Jarnett - President, 900 Catherine St, Metropolis 62960-1743
GLENVIEW/NORTH SHORE AVS, Barbara Goodsell - President, 429 Cherry Ln, Glenview 60025-4576
HOOSIER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Steve Covolo - President, 13243 S Baltimore Ave, Chicago 60633-1431
ILLINOIS AVS INC, Janice Bruns - President, 1220 Stratford Ln, Hanover Park 60103-2667
LAKE SHORE AVS, Martha Coronado - President, 6019 W Roscoe St, Chicago 60634-4232
MARGARET SCOTT AVS, Lois Crider - President, 2172 County Rd. 1850N, Saint Joseph 61873-9480
METROPOLITAN AVS OF PEORIA, Gary Duchien - President, 117 Lynn St, Washington 61571-2836
NORTHERN IL GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Bob Nicholson - President, 517 Seegers Rd, Des Plaines 60016-3019
TWIN CITIES AVS, Donna Willett - President, 42 Chiswick Cir, Bloomington 61704-7603

INDIANA

INDIANA STATE AVC, Chris Poore - President, 9414 Shenandoah Dr, Indianapolis 46229-2062
INDY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Kathie Jeffries - President, 7605 Broadview Dr, Indianapolis 46227-7948

IOWA

CEDAR VALLEY VIOLET CLUB, Barbara Pershing - President, 8134 Buck Rdg, Cedar Falls 50613-9412
EVENING AVC DES MOINES, Ken Wilkinson - President, 638 Jerlynn Ave, Des Moines 50313-3713
QUAD CITIES AVS, LuAnn Christenson - President, 2501 E 28th Ct, Davenport 52803-2101

KANSAS

LAWRENCE AVC, Raymond Russell - President, 807 W 27th Ter, Lawrence 66046-4617
MANHATTAN AVS, Doris Hofman - President, 3507 Musil Dr, Manhattan 66503-2550
MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, Pat Richards - President, 15105 S Seminole Dr, Olathe 66062-3004
THE UNPREDICTABLE'S AVS, Sylvia Prince - President, 9826 W 101st Ter, Overland Park 66212-5430
TOPEKA AVS, Essie Bays - President, RR 1, Maple Hill 66507-9801
WICHITA AV STUDY CLUB, William Baker - President, 9830 W 10th Ct, Wichita 67212-4325

KENTUCKY

AVS OF KENTUCKIANA, Michael Israel - President, 2047 Sherwood Ave Apt 2, Louisville 40205-1111

LOUISIANA

ALEXANDRIA AVS, Joan Pippens - President, 9996 Highway 165 S, Forest Hill 71430-9660
ATCHAFALAYA VS OF AMERICA, L T Ozio, Jr. - President, 1009 Ditch Ave, Morgan City 70380-2910
BATON ROUGE AVS, Fran Spear - President, 7660 Amite Church Rd, Denham Springs 70706-0907
JEFFERSON AV ASSOCIATION, Genelle Armstrong - President, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie 70005-1152
LOUISIANA CNCL OF AV JDGS & GROWERS, Nancy David - President, 110 Saint Jude St, New Roads 70760-3720
SUNDOWNERS AVS, Mary McFarland - President, 745 Parlange Dr, Baton Rouge 70806-1844
THE VERBEAU AVC, Vera Contant - President, 256 Ball Park Rd, Anacoco 71403-3633
TOP CHOICE AVS, Vivian Kennedy - President, 9318 Overlook Dr, Shreveport 71118-3532

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE AVC, Susan Barbi - President, 1809 View Top Ct, Annapolis 21401-5873
POTOMAC COUNCIL OF AV JUDGES, Ken Barbi - President, 1809 View Top Ct, Annapolis 21401-5873
SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN VIOLET SOCIETY, Dianne Good - President, 5515 Old Washington Rd, Sykesville 21784-8615

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL SEASONS AVC, Nancy Manozzi - President, 373 Singletary Ln, Framingham 01702-6128
BAY STATE AVS, Nancy Manozzi - President, 373 Singletary Ln, Framingham 01702-6128
EMERALD NECKLACE AVC, Ruth Grieco - President, 32 Saint Paul St, Brookline 02146-6534
THE QUANNAPOWITT AVC, Edith Dahl - President, 9 Pilling Rd, Wilmington 01887-1445

MICHIGAN

BORDER CITIES AVC, Robert Smith - President, 6160 Old Orchard Dr, Bloomfield 48301-1471
MICHIGAN STATE AVS Loreen Callentine - President, 2850 Green Rd, West Branch 48661

MINNESOTA

AFRICAN VIOLET STUDY GROUP Genevieve Zondlo - President, 3326 Lincoln St NE Minneapolis 55418-1454
AVS OF MINNESOTA, Conrad Nelson - President, 3137 Cedar Ave S, Minneapolis 55407-3806
FARGO-MOORHEAD AVC, Elaine Landa - President, 1006 10th St N, Moorhead 56560-1552
JUDGES COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA, Sharon E. Johnson - President, 6657 E Shadow Lake Dr, Circle Pines
LAKES AREA VIOLET GROWERS, Barbara Wohlferd - President, 9475 96th St N, White Bear Lake 55115-1394
MERRIAM PARK BLOOMERS, Jane Donaho - President, 1533 Grantham St, Saint Paul 55108-1449
NORTH STAR AV COUNCIL, Barbara Werness - President, 13055 Shenandoah Blvd NW, Coon Rapids 55448-7034

MISSISSIPPI

HATTIESBURG AVC, Bobbie Herring - President, PO Box 464, Petal 39465-0464
MEMPHIS AVS, Brenda Brasfield - President, 6210 Spring Creek Dr, Olive Branch 38654-9360

MISSOURI

AMETHYST AVC, Mrs Mary Ann Switzer - President, 1925 Lone Trail Ln, Chesterfield
AVC OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, Shirley Swait - President, 722 N Forest Ave, Independence 64050-2320

GATEWAY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Mary Manning - President, 3034 Brentmoor Dr, Arnold 63010-3771
GATEWAY WEST GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Gary Dunlap - President, 4188 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro 63050-2707
HEART OF MISSOURI AVS, Catherine Ross - President, RR 2 Box 165, Moberly 65270-9620
HI HOPES AVC, Helen Scheman - President, 5138 Waldo Ave, Saint Louis 63123-3736
INNER CITY AVS, Mrs. Barbara Fisher - President, 5119 Longhorn Trl, Florissant 63033-7706
KATY TRAIL AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Helen Blanton - President, 622 Riverside Dr, Saint Charles 63304-7945
METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AV COUNCIL, Lavera Eaklor - President, 5724 Oleatha Ave, Saint Louis 63139-1903
MID AMERICA AVS, Nancy Moerer - President, 413 NE 114th Terrace, Kansas City 64115
MIDWEST AV JUDGES COUNCIL, Sue Hill - President, 12201 E 45th Ter S, Independence 64055-5801
SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER OF AVS, Cathy Cale - President, 1154 S Pickwick Ave, Springfield 65804-0156
ST LOUIS AV JUDGES COUNCIL, Ardath Miller - President, 529 Ranch Dr, Manchester 63011-3948
THE PIED PIPERS CLUB, Mrs Marilyn Evensen - President, 532 Kingridge Dr, Ballwin 63011-2748
WEST COUNTY AVC, Ardath Miller - President, 529 Ranch Dr, Manchester 63011-3948

MONTANA

BILLINGS BLOOMERS AVS, Johanne Moser - President, 2122 Wingate Ln, Billings 59102-2154

NEBRASKA

HAPPY HOURS VIOLET CLUB, Dorothy Elliot - President, 540 County Rd 25 Tekamah, 68061
LINCOLN AVS, Darold Hibbs - President, 2000 E Manor Dr, Lincoln 68506-2207
OMAHA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Mrs Karen Murphy - President, 5605 N 69th St, Omaha 68104-1510

NEVADA

GROWERS STUDY GUILD, Ruth Parish - President, 7708 Sea Cliff Way, Las Vegas, 89128-6827
RENO-SPARKS AVS, Diana Thrane - President, 1155 Rosemary Ct, Sparks 89434-2558
THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Laverne Hysell - President, 1202 Arrowhead Ave, Las Vegas 89106-1404

NEW JERSEY

AV CLUB OF BURLINGTON COUNTY, Mrs Susan Arnao - President, 340 Glenwood Ave, Burlington 08016-2513
AVC OF MORRIS COUNTY, Roy Goebel - President, 39 Radtke Rd, Randolph 07869
BERGEN COUNTY AVS, Joseph De Simion - President, 749 Park Ave, Oradell 07649-2009
CENTRAL JERSEY AVS, Dale Jasaitis - President, 72 Old York Rd, Bordentown 08505-2912
GARDEN STATE AVC, Gary Thurman - President, 2028 Old York Rd, Burlington 08016-9767
NEW JERSEY COUNCIL/AV JUDGES, Frank Senna - President, 13 Harvard Way, Oakland 07436-3501
SEAVIEW AVS, Mr Lew Whitaker - President, 30 Grand Teton Ave, Howell 07731-9000
TRISTATE AV COUNCIL, Gary Thurman - President, 2028 Old York Rd, Burlington 08016-9767
UNION COUNTY CHAPTER AVS, Janet Riemer - President, 256 Pennington Harbourton Rd, Pennington

NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE AVC, Margaret Schmierer - President, 5010 Crownpoint Ct NW, Albuquerque
ALBUQUERQUE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, Gary Wells - President, 4601 Pedroncelli Ct NW, Albuquerque 87107-3472

NEW YORK

AVS OF GREATER NEW YORK, Elsa Rockelein - President, PO Box 650133, Flushing 11365-0133
AVS OF ROCHESTER, Barbara Festenstein - President, 109 Winslow Ave, Rochester 14620-3409
AVS OF STATEN ISLAND, Mrs Leonore Gugliada - President, 16 Meeker St, Staten Island 10306-1232
AVS OF SYRACUSE, James Wildman - President, 133 Rosemont Dr, Syracuse 13205-3011
AVS OF WESTERN NEW YORK, Fred Packer - President, 20 Mafalda Dr, Buffalo 14215-2018
CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS, Andrea Freeman - President, 434 Bullock Rd, Slingerlands 12159-3411
COPPER CITY AVS, Mary Pat Cotter - President, 212 Maple Dr, Oneida 13421-2622
HERITAGE AVS OF LONG ISLAND, Lorraine Greco - President, 32 South Franklin Ave, Lynbrook 11563-3936
HUDSON HIGHLAND AVS, Carol Ann Burrell - President, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fishkill 12524-2446
LONG ISLAND AVS, Dorothy Vogt - President, 180 Waco St, Lindenhurst 11757-5338
MARK TWAIN AVS, Louise Lorensen - President, 339 Bentley Rd, Wellsburg 14894-9756
METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF AV JUDGES, Kathryn Rotando - President, 131 Taft Ave, Long Beach 11561-3831
NEW YORK CITY AVS, Jim McGregor - President, 128 W 58th St, C/O Horticultural Society of NY, New York 10019-2103
NEW YORK STATE AVS, Kathryn Rotando - President, 131 Taft Ave, Long Beach 11561-3831
NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF AV JUDGES, Mrs Annabelle Hart - President, 118 S Crescent Dr, Rome 13440-4576
SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND, Kathryn A. Rotando - President, 131 Taft Ave, Long Beach 11561-3831
SWEET WATER AVS, Mr. Samuel Mednick - President, PO Box 5008, Hauppauge 11788-0601

NORTH CAROLINA

AVS OF CHARLOTTE, Betty Garland - President, 8112 Deerhorn Ct, Charlotte 28227-0300
FIRST GOLDSBORO AVS, Lorena Bunn - President, RR 5 Box 613B, Snow Hill 28580-9446
GREEN THUMB AVS, Gene Tritt - President, 1409 Hurley St, Roanoke Rapids 27870-2331
PIEDMONT-TRIAD AVS, Mary Cundiff - President, 5401 Forest Oaks Dr, Greensboro 27406-8317
TRIANGLE AVS, Libbie Glembocki - President, 103 Downing St, Apex 27502-9342

OHIO

AVS OF DAYTON, Pat Hancock - President, PO Box 8085, West Chester 45069-8085
CINCINNATI AVS, Margie Slye - President, 2161 Bethel New Richmond Rd, New Richmond 45157-9655
COLUMBUS AVS, James Rubottom - President, 3401 Anchorage Ln, Hilliard 43026-7819
PARMATOWN AVC, Linda Neumann - President, 11620 Mapleridge Dr, North Royalton
SPRINGFIELD AVC, Betty L. Bartley - President, 3920 Monterey Ave, Springfield 45504-3513
SUNSET AVS, Susan Miller - President, 14240 Mohler Rd, Liberty Center 43532-9405

TOWN & COUNTRY AVS, Gertrude Morabito - President, 7057 Brightwood Dr, Painesville 44077-2117
TRI-CITY AVS, Mrs. James Castele - President, 753 Windsor Rd, Troy 45373-1133
VIOLETS & FRIENDS CLUB, Martha Bradney - President, 1104 Anderson St, Piqua 45356-4348

OKLAHOMA

AVS OF GREATER TULSA, Rennie Taylor - President, 5916 E 28th St, Tulsa 74114-6402
GREEN COUNTRY AV STUDY CLUB, Mary E Hill - President, 1115 S 129th East Ave, Tulsa 74108-3901
LAWTON AVS, Patsy Worthen - President, 7 NW 27th St, Lawton 73505-6209

OREGON

HEART OF THE VALLEY AVS, Elise Ross - President, 634 SW 54th St, Corvallis 97333-2928
PORTLAND AVS, Valerie Miller - President, 4108 SE Risley Ave, Portland 97267-2938

PENNSYLVANIA

AVS OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA, Susan S. Reis - President, 1181 Williams St, State College 16801-6310
AVS OF LOWER BUCKS COUNTY, Craig Reed - President, 119 August Ln, Lansdale 19446-6715
AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, Marianne Gershon - President, 849 Lauren Ln, Hatfield 19440-3269
AVS OF SPRINGFIELD, Barbara Jones - President, 909 Louis Ln., Westchester 19382-7919
DELAWARE VALLEY COUNCIL OF AV JUDGES, Kurt Eckard - President, 453 Seville St, Philadelphia 19128-3632
THE PITTSBURGH VIOLET & GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Ms. Carla Ryan - President, 9518 Meadow Rd, Allison Park 15101-1741

SOUTH CAROLINA

FIRST AVS OF SPARTANBURG, Dorothy Landrum - President, 2132 Little Africa Rd, Chesnee 29523-9787
FLOWERTOWN VIOLET CLUB, Mrs Uldene Short - President, 100 Dorsetshire Downs, Summerville
PALMETTO AVS, Trudi W. Christensen - President, 200 Lands End Blvd Apt 1015, Myrtle Beach 29572-7055

SOUTH DAKOTA

SOUTH DAKOTA AVC, Mrs Miriam Greene - President, 2008 S Blauvelt Ave, Sioux Falls 57105-3223

TENNESSEE

AVS OF EAST TENNESSEE, Mary Ann Lang - President, 1512 Scottsdale Dr, Knoxville 37922-5638
BLUFF CITY AVC, Kathy Hildebrand - President, 6470 Birkenhead Rd, Memphis 38134-5950
NASHVILLE AVS, Peggy Adamson - President, 1613 Hampton Ave, Nashville 37207-4309
TENNESSEE VALLEY AVC, Mrs Dorothy Cogswell - President, 7994 Deerfield Way, La Follette 37766
VOLUNTEER STATE AV COUNCIL, Iona Pair - President, 3578 Country Lane Cv, Memphis 38133-2802

TEXAS

ALPHA AVS OF DALLAS, Grace Davis - President, 3418 Urban, Garland 75041
AV STUDY CLUB OF HOUSTON, Geri Goins - President, 11030 Silkwood Dr, Houston 77031-2220
AVS OF BEAUMONT, Mrs. Ronna Smalley - President, 1702 Jana Dr, Lufkin 75904-5676
CEN-TEX RAINBOW AVC, James Sneed - President, 906 Deorsam Dr, Copperas Cove 76522-3606

CENTRAL TEXAS JUDGES COUNCIL, Shirley Sanders - President, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio 78221-1446
CORPUS CHRISTI AVS, Marjorie Bullard - President, 6301 Meadowvista Dr Apt 1212, Corpus Christi 78414-2639
FIRST AUSTIN AVS, Gloria DuBose - President, PO Box 724, Georgetown 78627-0724
FIRST AVS OF DALLAS, Blanca Fuster - President, 1125 Americana Ln # 1205, Mesquite 75150-7614
FIRST AVS OF DENTON, Anne Nicholas - President, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton 76208-3428
FIRST AVS OF SAN ANTONIO, Jeanne Strattner - President, 8439 Romney, San Antonio 78250-2467
FIRST AVS OF WICHITA FALLS, Sue Ramser - President, 2413 Martin St, Wichita Falls 76308-1908
FIRST NIGHTER AVS OF DALLAS, Ann Nicholas - President, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton 76208-3428
FORT WORTH AVS, Laurin Virginia Linson - President, 326 Drexel Dr, Grapevine 76051-5101
FOUR SEASONS AVC, Helen Davis - President, 6348 Diamond Ave, Port Arthur 77640-1209
LONE STAR AV COUNCIL, Mary Walbrick - President, 5235 Kingston Dr, Wichita Falls 76310-3029
MAGIC KNIGHT AVS, Steven Spachek - President, 234 W Mally Blvd, San Antonio 78221-3832
MOONLIGHT AVS, Bonnie Harris - President, 2908 Fincher Rd, Haltom City 76117-4417
NASA AREA AVS, Lisa Holmes - President, 625 Shadylawn St, La Porte 77571-7256
NORTH TEXAS AV JUDGES COUNCIL, Mural Fort - President, 3921 Honey Ln, Fort Worth 76180
OFFICE VIOLETS AND LUNCH, Joyce Stenger - President, Lockheed Martin Co, 555 Forge River Rd Mail Code S14, Webster 77598
PARK PLACE AV CLUB, Janette Regner - President, 7923 Glenlea St, Houston 77061-2317
SAN MARCOS AVC, Ann Wharton - President, 1202 Chestnut St, San Marcos 78666-3517
SPRING BRANCH AVC, Lenora Munk - President, 2015 Bauer Dr, Houston 77080-5524
VALLEY AVS, Barbara Hasken - President, 2412 Durango Cir, Mission 78572
VICTORIA AVS, Joanne Schrimsher - President, 2205 College Dr, Victoria 77901-4474

UTAH

AVS OF UTAH, John Housek - President, 6840 W 3830 S, W Valley City 84128-3813

VIRGINIA

DANVILLE AVS, John Sullivan - President, 781 Inman Rd, Danville 24541-8047
LYNNHAVEN AVS, Sandi Flora - President, 8019 Baywood Dr, Norfolk 23518-3145
MID-ATLANTIC AVS, Sue Hoffmann - President, 801 N Villier Ct, Virginia Beach 23452-3941
RICHMOND AVS, Kathryn A. Hedgepeth - President, 4024 Cutshaw Ave, Richmond 23230-3930
THE TIDEWATER AVS, Celesta Cirki - President, 1733 Styron Ln, Virginia Beach 23464-7522

WASHINGTON

LONGVIEW AVC, Virginia Bailey - President, 103 John St, Kelso 98626-1861
SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF TACOMA, Mr. Austin Grevious - President, 602 W Blaine St, Seattle 98119-2928
SEATTLE AVS INC, Chris Hansen - President, 11259 29th Ave SW, Seattle 98146-3458

WISCONSIN

CROSSTOWN AVC, Darleen Shillinglaw - President, RR 1, Waunakee 53597-9803
FIRST AVS OF JANESVILLE, Fay Skews - President, 10933 Cave of The Mounds Rd, Blue Mounds
GREEN BAY AREA AVS, Nancy Barry - President, 2533 Memorial Dr, Green Bay 54303-6231
LATE BLOOMERS AVS, Linda Wendler - President, PO Box 192, Footville 53537-0192
MILWAUKEE AVS, Dorothy Fossum - President, 3177 N 95th St, Milwaukee 53222-3522
OSHKOSH VIOLET SOCIETY, Cathy Heider - President, 4132 Spring Rd, Omro 54963-9767
WAUKESHA VIOLETEERS, Lisa Corcoran - President, 119 W Roberta Ave, Waukesha 53186-6631
WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS, Kevin Degner - President, 1741 Iowa St, Oshkosh 54901-6828

WYOMING

CASPER BLOOMERS, Edna Tebbett - President, 969 S Grant St, Casper 82601-3356
THE SHERIDAN AVC, Debra Hanson - President, 1615 Holmes Ave, Sheridan 82801-2210

1998 AVSA Commercial Members

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INTERNATIONAL

CANADA ALBERTA

AFRICAN VIOLETS BY EVELYN, K Evelyn Salamanowicz, 324 Cantrell Dr SW, Calgary T2W 2C6
BLOOMIN' BASEMENT, Ingrid Nelson, 224 Douglas Woods Point SE, Calgary T2Z 2A7

BRITISH COLUMBIA

VIOLETS IN VOGUE, Christine Estridge, 1428 Cypress Road, Sidney V8L 5R3

ONTARIO

ACA'S VIOLET-TREE, John Brownlie, 600 Silvercreek Blvd 80, Mississauga L5A 2B4
DUSTY'S HYBRID AFRICAN VIOLETS, Box 56538, Woodbridge L4L 8V3
VIOLET BOUTIQUE, Patricia Orme, 40 Pellan Cres, Kanata K2K 1J5

COSTA RICA

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JAPAN

GARDEN CENTER YOKOYAMA, N-4 E-4 Chuo-ku, Sapporo 60

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COUNTRY VIOLETS GREENHOUSE, Tony Collins, 2010 Enon Rd, Webb 36376-5834

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MRS HELEN KRUMREY, 6609 E 12th Ave, Anchorage 99504-1737

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DOTTIE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS, John & Dorothy Greer, 7462 E Desert Aire Dr, Tucson 85730-3800
DR B'S DIGS, Dr Barbara Vanderleest, PO Box 733, Carefree 85377-0733
HATTIE BAGGETT, HC 2 Box 381, Tucson, 85735-9714
KACHINA AV AND SUPPLIES, Mark R Lort, 15818 N 52nd St, Scottsdale 85254-1707
MRS BARBARA FULLER, 409 S Kenyon Dr, Tucson 85710-1043
SUSAN MERSKI, 2511 N Desert Ave, Tucson 85712-2403

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HERBAL GARDEN'S CERAMICS, George Walsh, PO Box 38, Montara 94037
HOOVER'S HYBRIDS, Darryl Hoover, 1812 Southgate Ave, Fullerton 92833-3734

LAINY CERAMICS, Elaine A. Polick, 28506 Borgona, Mission Viejo 92692-1641

LESLIE JONES, PO Box 839, Yreka 96097-0839

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P J'S VIOLETS, Joan & Pierce Cumpton, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner Robins 31088-4170

TRAVIS' VIOLETS, Travis Davis, PO Box 42, Ochlocknee 31773-0042

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VIOLETS GALORE OF GEORGIA, Jim & Jean Wright, 8669 Lake Dr, Lithonia 30058-6533

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Edee

Miniature Trailer

Hybridized by: Patt Harris

Photo Credit: M. Dougherty

African Violet Nutrition (and plants in general)

by Dave Neal, CEO Dyna-Gro™ Corp.

From a presentation given at the
1998 AVSA Convention in Sacramento, CA

Part 1 of a 2 part series

In nature, a plant is a solar-powered factory that mines minerals from the soil and manufactures the organic molecules it needs for growth from those mineral elements. This organic chemistry factory produces sugars, starches, enzymes, hormones, and many more complex molecules.

Light from the sun, water and minerals from the soil, and carbon dioxide from the air interact in higher green plants to produce sugar and oxygen through photosynthesis. The photolysis of a water molecule is a central event in that process: the protons and electrons of the hydrogen atoms are used to convert radiant energy into chemical energy in the form of the ATP molecule. The sugars synthesized by the plant contain the energy of the original absorbed light in chemical form. Whether they remain as separate sugar molecules or are linked together in chains to form complex carbohydrates, they function as the plant's food, and will yield up their energy when combined with oxygen during respiration.

The main light capturing pigment of most plants is chlorophyll, a green substance capable of absorbing a quantity of both red and blue light. Leaves containing chlorophyll must have access to light to power the many organic chemical processes taking place within the plant.

What is plant nutrition?

Plants use inorganic minerals for nutrition, whether grown in the field or in a container. Complex interactions involving weathering of rocks, decaying organic matter, animals and microbes take place to form inorganic minerals in soil. Note: plants do not take up anything organic. Organic matter must be broken down into small ions which first go into solution. Roots absorb these mineral nutrients as ions in soil water. Many factors influence nutrient uptake for plants. Ions can be readily available to roots or could be "tied up" by other elements or the soil itself. Soils too high in pH (alkaline) or too low in pH (acidic) make many minerals unavailable to plants.

Fertility or Nutrition

The term "fertility" refers to the inherent capacity of a soil to supply nutrients to plants in adequate amounts and in suitable proportions. The term "nutrition" refers to the interrelated steps by which a living organism assimilates food and uses it for growth and replacement of tissue. Previously, plant growth was thought of in terms of soil fertility or how much fertilizer

should be added to increase soil levels of mineral elements. Most fertilizers were formulated to account for deficiencies of mineral elements in the soil. The use of soilless mixes and increased research in nutrient cultures and hydroponics, as well as advances in plant tissue analysis, have led to a broader understanding of plant nutrition. Plant nutrition is a term that takes into account the interrelationships of mineral elements in the soil or soilless solution as well as their role in plant growth. This interrelationship involves a complex balance of mineral elements essential and beneficial for optimum growth.

Essential versus beneficial

In 1939 professors Arnon and Stout at the University of California - Berkeley proposed a definition of an essential mineral element (or mineral nutrient) which is still cited in textbooks today. They concluded that three criteria must be met for an element to be considered essential: 1. A plant must be unable to complete its life cycle in the absence of the mineral element. 2. The function of the element must not be replaceable by another mineral element. 3. The element must be directly involved in plant metabolism. These criteria are important guidelines for plant nutrition but are based upon plant survival.

I would propose a broader definition which includes beneficial mineral elements essential for optimum growth. Beneficial elements are those that can compensate for toxic effects of other elements or may replace mineral nutrients in some other less specific function such as the maintenance of osmotic pressure. The omission of beneficial nutrients in commercial production could mean that plants are not being grown to their optimum genetic potential but are merely produced at a subsistence level. This discussion of plant nutrition includes both the essential and beneficial mineral elements.

What mineral elements do plants want or need?

Of the nearly 100 naturally occurring elements only 20 are essential for plant life. Carbon (C), hydrogen (H), and oxygen (O) are supplied by air and water. Since none of you grow plants in a vacuum or without water, we will concentrate on the soil borne elements which are broken down into two basic groups: **macronutrients** and **micronutrients**.

As the terms imply, the first group is used in large amounts by plants with concentrations measured as a percentage of dry tissue weight. The second group, also known as trace elements, is required in much smaller amounts with concentrations measured in parts per million (abbreviated ppm)

In an article entitled, "The Art of Fertilizing...Just Enough", which appeared in the November - December issue of the African Violet Magazine, Kent & Joyce Stork, from my home state of Nebraska, offered some sound counsel regarding the danger of overfertilizing violets while correctly pointing out the fact that African violets (and most plants) do best when given fertilizer regularly.

A most important point in their article is the fact that plants do not take up and use nitrogen in the urea form. They correctly point out that urea must be broken down into the nitrate and ammoniacal forms (usable by plants) by soilborne microorganisms. Since most of us grow violets in soilless mixes, the levels of these microorganisms are generally quite low. Hence, the urea is more likely to burn the roots and leaf margins than provide nitrogen for the plants.

The general rule for container growing in general and soilless media in particular is, **avoid the use of fertilizers containing urea**. The nitrate form of nitrogen is the preferable form as it results in more compact and stronger growth. Ammoniacal nitrogen tends to produce more leggy growth with longer, weaker stems.

I disagree with one statement in the article, referring to the percentage of nutrients for growth that plants produce through photosynthesis. **Plants do not produce any nutrients**. Plants take up water-soluble nutrients from the soil or other medium which their roots occupy. Starting with photosynthesis, those nutrients are combined into sugars, proteins, starches, enzymes and other building blocks of plant life to produce the growth and ultimately the reproductive stages (flowers) that we seek when we attempt to cultivate them. A plant does, however, make **all** of its own food. In plant science, food is defined strictly as organic materials capable of releasing energy when combined with oxygen.

The six macronutrients are nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg) and sulfur (S). Essential trace elements include boron (B), chlorine (Cl), copper (Cu), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), sodium (Na), zinc (Zn), molybdenum (Mo), and nickel (Ni). Beneficial mineral elements include silicon (Si) and cobalt (Co). While the beneficial elements are known to be essential to some plants, they are not deemed to be essential for all plants. The distinction between beneficial and essential is often misunderstood in the case of some trace elements. Cobalt, for instance is essential for nitrogen fixation in legumes. It may also inhibit ethylene formation and extend the life of cut roses. Silicon, deposited in cell walls, has been found to improve heat and drought tolerance and increase resistance to insects and fungal infections. Silicon can also help compensate for toxic levels of manganese, iron, phosphorus and aluminum as well as zinc deficiency. A more holistic approach to plant nutrition would not be limited to nutrients essential to the mere survival of a plant but would include mineral elements at levels beneficial for the plant's optimum growth. With developments in analytical chemistry and the ability to eliminate contaminants in nutrient cultures, the list of essential elements may well increase in the future.

The Mineral Elements in Plant Production

The use of soil for greenhouse production before the 1960s was common. Today a few growers still use soil in their mixes. The bulk of production is in soilless mixes. Soilless

mixes must still provide support, aeration, nutrient and moisture retention just as soils do, but the addition of fertilizers or nutrients is different. Some soilless mixes have calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, sulfur, nitrogen, potassium and some micronutrients incorporated as a pre-plant fertilizer. Nitrogen and potassium still must be applied to the crop during production. Difficulty in blending a homogeneous mix using pre-plant fertilizers may often result in uneven crops and possible toxic or deficient levels of nutrients. Soilless mixes that require addition of micro and macronutrients applied as liquid throughout the growth of the crop, will give the grower more control of his plant growth. To achieve optimum production, the grower can adjust nutrient levels to compensate for other environmental factors during the growing season. The absorption of mineral ions is dependent on a number of factors in addition to weather conditions. These include the cation exchange capacity or CEC and the pH or relative amount of hydrogen (H⁺) or hydroxyl (-OH) ions of the growing medium, and the total alkalinity of the irrigation water.

CEC or Cation Exchange Capacity

The Cation Exchange Capacity refers to the ability of the growing medium to hold exchangeable mineral elements within its structure. These cations include ammonium nitrogen, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, manganese, zinc and copper. Coir (shredded coconut husk), peat moss and mixes containing bark, sawdust, and other organic materials all have some level of cation exchange capacity.

pH: What Does It Mean?

The term pH refers to the alkalinity or acidity of a growing medium water solution and is defined as $-\log$ (molar concentration of H⁺). This solution consists of mineral elements dissolved in ionic form in water. The reaction of this solution, whether it is acid, neutral or alkaline, will have a marked effect on the availability of mineral elements to plant roots. When there is a greater amount of hydrogen (H⁺) ions, the solution will be acidic (pH<7.0). If there are more hydroxyl (-OH) ions, the solution will be alkaline (pH>7.0). A balance of hydrogen and hydroxyl ions results in a pH neutral soil (pH=7.0). The optimum pH range for most crops is 5.5 to 6.2 or slightly acidic. This creates the greatest average level of availability for all essential plant nutrients. Extreme variations in pH can cause mineral deficiencies or toxicity by binding up or releasing large amounts of various elements. Note that, because pH is a logarithmic scale, a solution with a pH of 5 is ten times as acidic as a pH 6 solution. Likewise, a pH 4 is 100 times as acidic as a pH 6 solution.

**(Part 2 will appear in the
November/December 1998 AVM)**

Showcase

Strawberry Wave

Standard

Exhibited by: Violet Showroom

1998 National Show

Hybridized by: S. Sorano

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Suncoast Paisley Print

Best Standard

3rd Best In Show

From Best AVSA Collection

Exhibited by: Carroll Gealy

Hybridized by: S. Williams

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky





Episcia 'Cleopatra'

Best Episcia

2nd Best In Class

3rd Best Other Gesneriad

Exhibited by: Diana Thran

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Growing African Violets in Hawaii

by Hector Wong

What pops into my mind when I hear the word Hawaii; a tropical vacation site with lush greens and flowers growing year round! The weather in Hawaii is one of the best in the world, but growing African violets can be a challenging task.

Most of the published materials on African violets are works from temperate places. Little work has been done with growing in tropical environments. In the tropics, cold weather danger is not a problem. Instead, we must know how to grow in the warm, in the moist and in the wild! The purpose of this article is to invite you to share the African violet survival tips of the tropics.

Growing African violets in Hawaii is different. One experienced orchid grower plants violets under the orchid bench. Another grower has better results outdoors than indoors! And, I like to try different things.

Clay Pots and Evaporative Cooling

My violets in clay pots grow faster and stronger than in other pots. Place a thick bottom layer of perlite to about half the height of the pot. Make sure to have water in the plant saucer. The combination of clay pots, perlite, and a filled water saucer creates constant evaporation, bringing temperatures down (evaporative cooling).

Cut 1 1/2 inch thick strip of aluminum foil and line the pot edges. This works great in preventing the bruising of delicate petioles from the rough clay and from the salts accumulated in the edges.

Have evaporative cooling of some sort. If you don't use clay pots, then place trays filled with water and pebbles, mist several times a day, or get an evaporative cooling system as used in greenhouses!

P & P

My potting soil is made from 50% peat moss and 50% perlite. The high perlite content increases evaporative cooling and air circulation. When using a more complex soil recipe, make sure to have a 50% perlite ratio.

I don't add any dolomite lime into my potting soil because my tap water is slightly alkaline. Also, most of Hawaii's tap water is very clean and drinkable, thus we find that the potting media stays sweet for a longer time and repotting is less frequently needed.

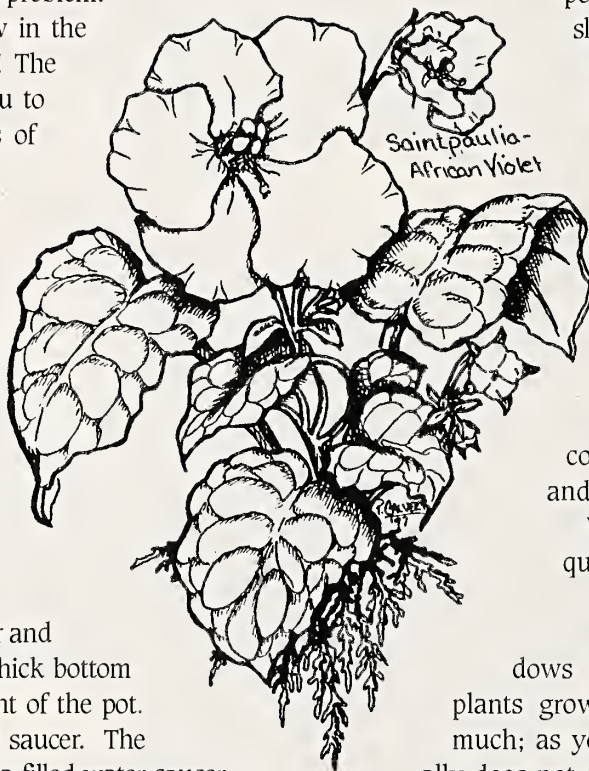
Wet The Leaves

Top water and wet all the foliage, as if you were watering your lawn. Wetting leaves, cools down the plant, washes off dust, and increases evaporative cooling.

Water spots or burns are not too frequent. Sunlight hits the tropics in a very perpendicular angle, thus the light coming through our windows is reflected and mild. Also true, plants grown in fluorescent light don't mind much; as you know fluorescent lighting generally does not cause water spots. Mildew? Crown rot? Not much. Most houses in Hawaii have open windows with good air circulation and little temperature fluctuations. Damage to open blossoms? Yes. Avoid wetting the blossoms to make them last longer.

Wetting leaves is very beneficial against pests. Often, when you spray with insecticide, more benefits are done from wetting the plant than from the chemicals in the spray. Cyclamen mites and thrips hate water.

Growing for show? Fill a spray bottle with hot tap water. Spray your foliage from one foot away, thus allow-



ing the water to become cooler. Avoid the blossoms. The warm water brings the African violet's natural waxes out, making the foliage very shiny.

Cyclamen Mites and Thrips

I put my plants in a clear plastic bag for 2 months. Cyclamen mites die in the enclosed humidity-saturated air. This is also a great way to isolate new plants.

Back in 1995, I lost most of my collection due to foliar thrips. I could not find any references on foliar thrips. While examining my plants with visitors to Hawaii, Joyce and Kent Stork we found thrips. Foliar thrips are similar to blossom thrips, but they feed on the leaves. Foliar thrips are seen crawling through leaves, making thin circular brown lines as they crawl and feed. Eventually, the leaf will show moist brown dead spots.

The symptoms are very similar to crown rot, but the roots and the plant core are still healthy; new growth can reappear.

To control foliar thrips, and thrips in general, I place bright yellow plastic cups coated with Vaseline, one or two per plant shelf. Amazing! Flying critters get stuck to them. Also, I mist the plants with plain water almost every day. Thrips hate water, so get a big spray bottle!

Don't worry too much about isolating new plants in the tropics. Again, tropical homes have open windows, so anything can fly in and out. However, learn how to control it.

Grow What Grows

Purple, purple with dots, pink, white, stripes . . . African violets come in different colors and varieties. Every year, hybridizers create dozens of new varieties. Some African violet varieties do better in the compost pile than growing in the tropics. Get it? Keep growing, buying, exchanging, and discard varieties that do not perform well for your growing environment. Soon, you can write your own 'Honor Roll' list.

My favorite African violet species are *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, *S. Robertson*, and *S. diplotrisha*. My favorite hybrids are Rob's series trailers, 'Wrangler's Dixie Celebration', and 'Optimara Monet'. 'Golden Plume' grows exceptionally well, keeping great variegation even in very warm temperatures. Sorry, but 'Tiger' will not grow for me.

In Conclusion

Growing African violets in Hawaii is a challenging task. Do things differently when growing in the tropics.

(About the author: Hector Wong has been growing African violets in the tropics for 15 years. He teaches workshops at the University of Hawaii Lyon Arboretum. Call 808-988-7378 for a class schedule. You may contact Hector on the Internet at www.hectorwong.com or at the affiliate African Violet Society of Hawaii.)

DID YOU KNOW?

by A. Nonny-Mousse

- That you can plug leaks on cracked plastic pots with silicone sealant?
- That you may make leaf supports out of round cardboard pizza package bottoms?
- That you can make your own sticky strips by using left-over pieces of board strips, painting them yellow, and applying tangleroot or anything sticky to them?
- You can use transparent 2" mailing tape for hinges on plastic flower box terrariums? It also makes a good tape to use on lid tops when transporting to shows. It comes off without residue.
- You can use potato chip bag clips to keep plastic flower boxes (the kind used in corsage presentations) shut when sprouting seeds (tiny ones).
- That you can use yellow margarine tubs (small ones) to hold a solution of soap and water to kill bugs on your plant stands. It is especially good for fungus

gnats. It's the **yellow** color that attracts the bugs. The soap prevents them from escaping by its surface action on their bodies and wings.

- That clear vegetable bags from the supermarket are useable as temporary greenhouses for cuttings and wilted plants. If the bags have been used to carry any plant material, be sure to wash them with soap and water inside and out.
- If you can't get labels or price tags off your pots, boxes, etc., use WD 40 Spray. Just saturate the spot affected, wait a bit, then use a rough rag or soil scraper until all the sticky is gone. Wash with soap afterwards. This works on gum also.

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TAKE A PLANT TO THE OFFICE

By Joyce Stenger • Houston, TX

An *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch' was the gesneriad that captured the attention of my co-workers. This plant was nice and large with beautifully formed foliage having a multitude of runners reaching out and draping around stems of huge leaves. Beneath the massive rosy-bronze colored leaves, the squat pot that held the plant was almost hidden. To best display the showy elegance of this plant, it was displayed high on top of a filing cabinet for everyone to enjoy. Folks did notice.

Then it happened! The *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch' started blooming. First just a few buds showed color. Then finally those long trumpet-shaped blossoms unfolded their brilliant red-orange color. The curious from the furthest reaches of the office building began to stop by to see that "red-orange, rosy-bronze plant." Equal amounts of men and women had some interest. Enticed, folks asked to try a starter plant.

All the runners were eventually removed from the mother plant to the pleasure of hopeful growers. Each runner was gingerly put into a small cup of soilless mix, then taken to its new home at someone else's desk. Later, growers who brought in a gallon of water received a scoop of plant fertilizer for their jug. Across the blue and gray decor of the office workplace, the *Episcia* color was showing up everywhere. Guys and gals were growing it.

New growers started asking questions about soil, wicking, and watering. A smaller core group talked about swapping plants, sharing leaves, or growing different varieties. Someone asked, "Why not start a growers' group?" A VIOLET CLUB AT WORK! What would the

company think? Where would we meet? Do we need officers?

The core group got together during lunch to make a list of suggestions for starting a club. The deputy director explained the company's ground rules. Questions and issues were easily resolved by majority vote of the core group. Each prospective member donated "pre-dues" which were double the annual dues so a checking account could be opened with our state's banking minimum. The

first officers were volunteers. After selecting a club name, we registered with AVSA. We were now a new club!

These events happened four years ago. Club members now grow many different varieties of violets and other gesneriads at work and at home. The harsh office environment is a challenge for growing plants; however, many do bloom there. There are no shows or displays as yet, but we do go on field trips. We also are exhibitors in a "Fellowship" category of a local violet club that has an annual show.

Semi-annually we have a silent auction to raise funds for community projects. Sale plants are purchased since members do not want to sell plants they grow. Company regulations are carefully observed; however, managers boast of plants they have acquired from our group.

You, too, can start a club just as easily as this one was started. Perhaps your best plant is another variety of Gesneriad or an outstanding violet. Maybe your office is a different environment. Why not take your best-growing plant to your office and see what happens!



DENVER'S 50 YEARS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

by Janice Sorensen • Englewood, CO

Were you interested in African violets in the late 1940s? Were you growing them? The African Violet Society of Denver, Chapter 1, was and still is. Although not a charter member, Ella Kiesling joined in 1954 and as an active member now, still enjoys growing, showing, judging, and hybridizing African violets. Honored as Queen for the Day, while braving a case of pneumonia, Ella was the highlight as current and past members gathered at the Denver Botanic Gardens' Waring House on February 8, 1998 to celebrate the club's 50th Anniversary.

The past and current members of Chapter 1 and club friends attending the Open House were treated to a tasty selection of refreshments. The large dining room table in the historic Waring House was lovely in its display of featured African violets (grown by member Nelly Levine) and decorations of balloons, silver coffee and tea services and a cake sporting African violet blossoms made from purple icing. It was with grateful appreciation to the Denver Botanic Gardens for the use of the home for the celebration. It has been used as the club meeting site since the opening of the gardens.



Ella Kiesling

In the foyer a registration table and book greeted guests. A poster announced the Golden Anniversary celebration with a water color of a golden yellow-blossomed African violet

plant. Member and past president, 'Becky' Shoun illustrated the poster, showing that her artistry goes beyond her large, award-winning African violets.

Memorabilia on display were scrapbooks, notebooks of the club's earliest minutes and bylaws, yearbooks, show schedules, old master variety lists, and miscellaneous society publications. Guests were able to reminisce and relive good



Becky Shoun

times and friendships. Past member and president, Sally Roesner, was among the previous members in attendance. Ella Kiesling and another active member, Eleanor Elliott, have the two longest memberships which date back to the early-mid 50s.

Although Chapter 1 currently has a membership of fourteen, five are AVSA judges, including Ella as a master judge, and Fran Ratte' as an AVSA teacher. An annual project is to hold a plant show/exhibition and sale. The club actively supports its affiliation with the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council. Several active members helped the club and council in both the 1979 and 1994 AVSA Conventions held in Denver. The challenge of membership is even more important now, for the future.

"And the winners are..."



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

AVC OF BURLINGTON COUNTY, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ocean Eyes, Grandma's Zach, Phantom Flash; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cupid's Kiss, Porcelain Doll, Boo Man; Best in Show/Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy, **Sandy Skalski**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Wee Be, Optimara Little Aztec; Best Semiminiature: Peppermint Doll; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Susan Arnao**. Best Design, **Dorothy Taylor**.

AVS OF CANADA, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Lion, Anastasia, Raspberry Crisp; Best in Show/Best Standard: Red Lion, **Tony Hulleman**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Crystal, Rob's Willy Nilly, Optimara Little Diamond; Best Semiminiature: Definitely Darryl; Best Miniature: Rob's Doohickey, **Irene Henry**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Antique Rose, Optimara Little Shoshone; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Robert McCabe**. Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo, **Bruce Young**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Richard Harriman**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Electra', **Shirley Turner**. Best Design, **Eleanor Elston**. Design Sweepstakes, **Audrey Moir**.

AVS OF CENTRAL ALBERTA, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fall Colors, Anastasia, Becky; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lace Shadows, Cupid's Kiss, That's Show Biz; Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Best Standard: Daisy's Delight; Best Semiminiature: Symphonette; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Pearl; Best Trailer: Rob's Sailor Bill, **Margaret Gratto**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', **Irma Waltemath**. Best Design, **Betty Nagy**.

AVS OF DAYTON, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary Craig, Cinnamon Girl, Fancy That; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mary Craig; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pal Vikki; Best Trailer: Princess Trail, **Anne Thomas**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Happy Cricket, Paradise Pink, Jazzy Jewel; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boggymen, Optimara Little Blackfoot, Rob's Whodunit; Best Miniature: Toy Castle; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'King's Cloak', **Heather Herzner**. Best Design, **Thelma Lawson**.

AVS OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Disco Blue, Ultra Violet Orbit, Ultra Violet Halo; Best Miniature: Mildly Meek; Best Trailer: Jet Trail; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mildred Patrick**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Puff, Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Ricki Oscarson**.

AVS OF MINNESOTA, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Molokai, Rebel's North Star, Rebel's Snowy Bright, **Ruth Bann**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Black Plum, Ness' Candy Pink, Edward's Delight; Best Standard: Ness' Candy Pink, **Dolores Harrington**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Optimara Little Blackfoot, Optimara Little Aztec; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Aztec; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria bella*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kathy Lahti**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Sno Fun, Beginner's Luck; Best Design, **Palma Trapp**. Best Trailer: Sundown Trail, **Jane Donaho**. Design Sweepstakes, **Donna Tobin**.

AVS OF MORRIS COUNTY, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vintage Wine, Rebel's Watercolor Rag, Ness' Viking Maiden; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lemon Drop, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Twinkle Pink; Best in Show/Best Standard: Woodland Sprite; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Twinkle Pink; Best Miniature: Black Rain; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichocki**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Puff, Ness' Sno Fun, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea hirta* 'Light Prince', **Jill Fischer**. Best Trailer: Wood Trail, **Roy Goebel**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* Lite, **Angela Rosenbaum**.

AVS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Glitter Lace, Ness' Blue Velvet, Apache Land; Best in Show: Apache Land; Best Semiminiature: Slow Dancin'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Adelle Johnson**. Best Miniature: Petite Fantasy; Best Trailer: Teen Trail, **Anna Jean Landgren**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Pink Lady', **Mildred Aske**. Design

Sweepstakes, **Edward Johnson**.

AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, PA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Shades of Autumn, Optimara Leonardo Davinci, Rhapsodie Michiko; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rhapsodie Michiko; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kurt Eckard**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Ode to Beauty, Windy Day, **Betty Branson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Pewter Bells, Lakeshore Silver; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Mohawk, **Marianne Gershon**. Best Semiminiature: Denny Boo; Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Karlyn'; Design Sweepstakes, **Peggy DePhillippo**. Best Design, **Judy Smith**.

AVS OF ROCHESTER, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pueblo, Rain Man, Picasso; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rain Man, **Doug Burdick**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Macho Devil, Rob's Mad Cat; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Ralph & Olive Robinson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Miniwinni, Rob's Humpty Doo, Rob's Galiwinku; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Ruby; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Festenstein**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Sugar Cube, **Molly Judge**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Faded Jade', **Shari Leary**. Best Design, **Diane Johanson**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fay Wagman**.

THE AVS OF STATEN ISLAND, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Best Friends, Super Duper; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Nancy Hayes, Rosina, Pixie Blue; Best Semiminiature: Little Ghost Dancer; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst; Best Trailer: Lil Runaround; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Brocade'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Lee Guagliada**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Sheer Romance, **John Papalia**.

ALBUQUERQUE AVC, NM - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara New Mexico, Ms. Pretty, Optimara Maui; Best in Show/Best Standard: Misty Frost; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee', **Jo Ellen Bowden**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Halo's Aglitter, Ness' Viking Frost, Blue Mink; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Twinkle Pink, Lemon Tart, Ness' Angel Babe; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Louise Sando**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Evelyn Coleman**.

THE BALTIMORE AVC, MD - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Manitoba, Optimara Monet, Optimara Leonardo Davinci, **Toki Ridinger**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Rainbow, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Golden Touch; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Rob's Voodoo Blue; Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Rodney Barnett**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Prince of Dixie, **Marie Burns**. Best Gesneriad: *xCodonatanthus*, **Shirley Hoffman**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Gary Gordon**.

BAY STATE AVS, MA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kathy Gee, Ode to Beauty, Ness' Viking Maiden; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Bright Honey, Rob's Cotton Ball; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Susan Gimblet**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mystery, Nancy Reagan, Favorite Child; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea hirta* 'Light Prince'; Design Sweepstakes, **Robert Clark**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Slow Dancin', Rob's Sarsaparilla, Rob's Antique Rose; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Carol Hess**. Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose, **Suzanne Ress**.

BLUFF CITY AVC, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rose Picturesque, Halo's Aglitter, Lela Marie; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Cooper**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Von's Simple Simon, Rob's Antique Rose, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Katherine Steele**. Best Standard: Star Trek; Best Semiminiature: Lyon's Earth Angel, **Lorraine Johnson**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Pearl; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Iona Pair**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Sunset', **Geneva Stagg**.

CARLSBAD AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Green Eyes, Nortex's Radiant Haven, **June Strong**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Heat Wave, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Standard: Rainbow's Quiet Riot, **Audrey Hanthorn**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Lyon's

June Bug; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lyn Sweeney**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Dorothee Schindler**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', **Pauline Mueller**.

CEN-TEX RAINBOW AVC, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Victory, Optimara South Dakota, Frosted Whisper; Best Standard: Apache Victory; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Best Design, **Nancy Sneed**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Perfect Peach, Ness' Satin Rose, Shy Blue; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Petite Blarney; Best Trailer: Little Chippy Trail, **Blake Mayfield**. Best Gesneriad: *Nautocalyx* 'New Mexicarus', **Mellor Garlick**. Design Sweepstakes, **Gloria DuBose**.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Classic Rock, Irish Flirt, Moon silk; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Classic Rock, **Stan Barnes**. Best Standard: Marie's Pacific Serenade; Best Trailer: Sunset Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Donnie Barnes**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Helen Sepe**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Country Neon', **Renee Wilson**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Laverne Cottet**.

CENTRAL JERSEY AVS, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Mary, Niagara's Critic's Choice; Picturesque; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Mini Sota, Winnergreen, Ness' Sno Fun; Best Standard: Picturesque; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Seminole; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis**. Best in Show/Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea flaccida*; Best Design, **Dale Jasaitis**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Murasko**.

COPPER CITY AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Officer Krupke, Sunlit Velvet, Favorite Child; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sheer Peach, Rob's Dust Storm, Irish Flirt; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Annabelle and Wilson Hart**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Connecticut Belle', **William and Robin Yager**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Cathy Best**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Nancy Manning**. Best Design, **Annabelle Hart**. Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Cotter**.

DES MOINES EVENING AVC, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dancin' Trail, Happy Trails, Foxwood Trail; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Titania; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Janet Purdom**. Best Semiminiature: Shan; Best Miniature: Quaker, **Judy Zegers**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Diana', **Gloria Slater**. Best Design, **Deb Oelmann**. Design Sweepstakes, **Joan Watts**.

EARLY BIRD VIOLET CLUB, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Boca Grande, Officer Krupke, Taffeta Petticoats; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Humpty Doo, Milky Way Trail, Marion's Enchanted Trail; Best Standard: Boca Grande; Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ramona Hodges**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Scooter; Best Miniature: Little Lexi, **Kim Eskew**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Jane Sherer**. Design Sweepstakes, **Donna Henderson**.

FANTASY AVC, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: I Feel Pretty, Optimara Vienna, Georgia Lover; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dancin' Trail, Rob's Toorooka, Rob's Lilli Pilli; Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Vienna; Best Semiminiature: Candy Crystals; Best Trailer: Candlelight Waltz, **Ann Gramstorff**. Best Miniature: Pink Imp, **Norma Vila**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia cardinalis*, **Anna Horvath**. Best Design, **Jim Duerstock**.

THE FIRST AVS OF DALLAS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Barbara Ann, Picasso, Ode to Beauty; Best in Show/Best Standard: Barbara Ann; Best Semiminiature: Vagabond; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Velma', **Martha Turner**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blue Jay, Vintage Wine, Bertha; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Virginia Linson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Candy Crystals, Sweet Cherub, **Paula Foster**. Best Trailer: Beacon Trail, **Rae Adams**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Janice Davidson**.

FIRST AVS OF WICHITA FALLS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Wewonchu, Rodeo Country, Melodie Kimi; Best in Show/Best Standard: Aca's Wewonchu; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Allene Peek**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Little Butterfly, **Sue Ramser**. Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **Mary Smith**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Christmas Holly', **Joanie Sleeper**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Walbrick**.

FIRST NIGHTER AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Barbara Ann, Ode to Beauty, Picasso; Best in Show/Best Standard: Barbara Ann, **Martha Turner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Definitely Darryl, Lollipop Kid; Best Trailer: Champagne Pink; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Paula Foster**. Best Semiminiature: Dean's Arctic Frost, **Anne Nicholas**. Best Miniature: Wishful Teen, **Ray Pittman**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Design Sweepstakes, **Bill Foster**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Something Special', **Margery Clive**. Best Design, **Sue Frauli**.

GARDEN STATE AVC, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Mini Papa, Lace Shadows; Best in Show/Best Standard/Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Semiminiature: Mini Papa; Best Miniature: Loupy Lou; Best Gesneriad: *Nautocalyx lynchii*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Thurman**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Powder Keg, Taffeta Petticoats, Red Robe; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Stardust; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Rhona Thurman**.

GREEN THUMB AVS OF FAYETTEVILLE, AR - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blackie Bryant, Rita Hilton, Picasso, **Margaret Condit**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Jealous Jewels, Optimara Monet, Maiden; Best

Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Peggy'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ruby Pope**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Rob's Pink Satin, Rob's Whippoorwill; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pink Satin, **Candace Page**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail, **Mary Hill**.

GULF AVC, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Squall, Taffeta Petticoats, Granger's Wonderland; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sarsparilla, Rob's Ruff Stuff, Audrey Buchanan; Best in Show/Best Standard: Snow Squall; Best Semiminiature: Audrey Buchanan; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Anna Marie Rinick**. Best species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Lillian Scott**. Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Dark Velvet', **Eleanor Duerr**.

HEART OF JACKSONVILLE AVS, FL - Winners: Best in Show: Ness' Pink Patches; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bobbi Johannsen**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Lucy Wall**.

HEART OF MISSOURI, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Monet, Lela Marie, Nortex's Petticoat Haven; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Baby Brian; Best Standard: Optimara Monet; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Peggy Payne**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Cotton Ball, **Catherine Ross**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Dreams', **Joe Schulz**. Design Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Anderson**.

HUDSON HIGHLANDS AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Candy Pink, Optimara Arizona, Fantasy Radiance; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ness' Candy Pink; Best Semiminiature: Lyon's Gold Rush; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Camille Henderson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia tongwensis*, *Saintpaulia brevopilosa*, *Saintpaulia diplotricha* *Punter* #7; Best Miniature: Black Rain; Best Species: *Saintpaulia brevopilosa*, **Carol Ann Burrell**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Woolloomooloo, Rob's Lilli Pilli, Rob's Willawong, **Stephen Burrell**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Handpainted', **Barbara Perrott**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Kel Seberle**.

ILLINOIS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, INC., IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Ocean Eyes, Splendiferous; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Silver Spook; Best Standard: Ocean Eyes; Best Trailer: Sundown Trail, **Stephen Covolo**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: East Wind, Optimara Centennial, Rhapsodie Rose; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cupid's Kiss, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Optimara Little Sioux, **Andrea Worrell**. Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **Morgan Simmons**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Janus', **Gary Mikita**. Best Miniature: Windsome; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jean Willey**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Robert Mack**.

INDIANA STATE AVS, IN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blushing Ivory, Ode to Beauty, Designer Dress; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bashful Baby, Texas Buttercup, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Jean Willey**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia brevopilosa*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *pendula* Cape Cod; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jeff Smith**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Sarsparilla, Rob's Antique Rose; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Standard: Lady Baltimore; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Janus', **Gary Mikita**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Laurie Mitchell**.

LONG ISLAND AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Makin' Romance, Blushing Ivory, Painted Sunrise; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Rob's Pewter Bells, Persian Lace; Best in Show/Best Standard: Makin' Romance; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pewter Bells; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Opal, **Frances Berman**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Makin' Romance, Ness' Northern Lights; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', **Dorothy Vogt**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Satin, Ness' Sno Fun, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Orchid Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lois Szostak**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*, **Anita Rudolph**. Best Design, **Rosemary Macaluso**. Design Sweepstakes, **Diane Lohan**.

MASTER CITY AV AND GESNERIAD SOCIETY, GA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Freedom, Apache Fire, Ghost Dance; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lace Shadows, Frosty Fun, Irish Flirt, **Jim Wright**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Vince's Choice, Lela Marie; Best in Show/Best Standard: Love in Bloom; Best Design, **Sharon Miles**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Almost Sinful, Rob's Dust Storm; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jean Wright**. Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Broget Stavanger', **Lois Duvall**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Diamond, **Stephanie Duncan**. Design Sweepstakes, **Angelika Bondar**.

MEMPHIS AVS, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Snow Squall, Frosted Flames; Best Standard: Nortex's Snowkist Haven; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*, **Lee Smith**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: King's Treasure, Ness' Lucky Freckles, Looking Glass; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Wee Dreamer; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Geneva Stagg**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sarsparilla, Rob's Avis Winnie, Snuggles Rising Star; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Sarsparilla, **Brenda Brasfield**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Alicia', **Peggy Adamson**. Best Design, **Iona Bair**.

METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AV COUNCIL, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ultra Violet Dusk, Ultra Violet Flash, Optimara Grenada; Best in Show/Best Standard: Marching Band, **Mary Ann Switzer**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Match Point, Party Lace, Orchard's Purple Haze, **Susan Hapner**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Joy's Pink Halo, Irish Flirt, California Sunset;

Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ardath Miller**. Best Semiminiature: Dean's Bunny Blue, **Janet Graves**. Best Trailer: Kissaway Trail, **Mary Mahen**; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Robertson, **Gary Dunlap**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Susie', **Carolyn Burr**. Best Design, **Glenda Holm**. Design Sweepstakes, **Helen Blanton**.

NAUGATONIC AVS, CT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Rosalie, Rhapsodie Candy, Optimara Manitoba II; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Perfect Peach, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Fiddlesticks; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Lyon's Pinky Wink; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Inferno'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Edna Rourke**. Best Standard: Tomahawk, **Don Goodwin**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Charlene Cwalesky**.

NEW YORK CITY AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Lyon's Country Moonlight, Mindi Brooke; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Jindalee, Rob's Toorooka; Best in Show/Best Standard: Lyon's Country Moonlight; Best Semiminiature: Lyon's June Bug; Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Trailer: Rob's Jindalee; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diffilis*; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Star of Bethlehem'; Show Sweepstakes, **Edward Bradford**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cherry Sparkles, Lyon's Pink Cadillac, Rain Man; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Rob's Whodunit, Shy Blue, **Joseph Palagonia**.

NORTH STAR AV COUNCIL, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Royal Flair, Melodie Maki, Rhapsodie Michiko; Design Sweepstakes, **Barb Werness**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Marching Band, Victorian Petticoats; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Twinkle Pink, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Mini Sota; Best Standard: Marching Band; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jim Graf**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dust Storm, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Slow Dancin'; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Dust Storm; Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper, **Sandy Officer**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Ruth Bann**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Velma', Carol Semrau, Best Design, **Jinean Scheffield**.

OSHKOSH VIOLET SOCIETY, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia diffilis*, *Saintpaulia rupicola*, *Saintpaulia orbicularis*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diffilis*; Best Gesneriad: *Chrysothemis pulchella*, **Kevin Degner**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Best Friends, Happy Cricket, Frances Young; Best Standard: Best Friends; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Betsy Fox**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Linda Darnel, **Cathy Heider**.

PARMATOWN AVS, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Bo Peep, Lollipop Kid, Pink Skies; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Martha Bell**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pink Dove, Spring Peach, Optimara Little Crystal; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Miniature: Pink Dove; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Marian Tisdale**. Best Standard: Rapid Transit, **Marge Kovach**. Best Trailer: Darling Blue Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Linda Neumann**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Petunia', **Carol Shepard**.

OTTAWA AVS, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bogeymann, Rob's Antique Rose, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Semiminiature: Von's Simple Simon; Best Miniature: Pink Pet; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob McCabe**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pewter Bells, Snuggles Snow Baby, Rob's Denim Demon; Best in Show/Best Standard: Harbor Blue; Design Sweepstakes, **Bruce Young**. Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Gerry Pinard**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Dick Harriman**. Best Design, **Bill Westbrook**.

QUAD CITIES AVS, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Dominica, Candy Swirls, The Alps; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bogeymann, Rob's Macho Devil, Lemon Cookie; Best Standard: Concord; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **John Jugenheimer**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Merry Christmas, Victorian Velvet; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Alma Lavine**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Happy Trails, Linda Darnel, Snowy Trail; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Linda Darnel; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Celia Schafer**. Best Design, **Marlene Wright Wagner**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jackie Jones**.

RICHMOND AVS, VA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Pink Pansy, Optimara Trinidad, Rhapsodie Monique II; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **David Hudson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Alamo Red, Ness' Blue Velvet; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dandy Lion, Rob's Bo Peep, Handmade; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita latifolia x linearifolia*, **Barbara Peterson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Perfect Peach, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Sarsparilla; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pewter Bells; Best Standard: The Alps; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani, **Kitty Hedgepeth**. Best Design, **Bill Schmidt**; Design Sweepstakes, **Sharon Long**.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AV COUNCIL, CO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Marching Band, Peach Puff, Pretty Mama; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Angel Babe, Rob's Vanilla Pink, Rob's Twinkle Pink; Best Trailer: Wood Trail, **Betty Margetts**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Gaugin, Optimara Stockholm, Officer Krupke, **Elaine Niece**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Pearl, Cutie, Alan's Valley Girl; Best in Show/Best Standard: Magnolia; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* Lite; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nelly Levine**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat, **Trudy Brekel**. Best Miniature: Cutie; Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* 'Little One'; Best Design, **Bev Promersberger**. Design Sweepstakes, **Colleen Clark**.

THE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Lyon's Country Moonlight, Mindi Brooke; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Jindalee, Rob's Toorooka; Best

in Show/Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Trailer: Rob's Jindalee; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Edward Bradford**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Mindi's Tears, Picasso, **Jane Weber**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Rob's Dust Storm, Shy Blue; Best Semiminiature: **Joseph Palagonia**. Best Standard: Picasso, **Bud Weber**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Island Silver', **Kathryn Rotando**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Klein**.

SILVERMINE AVS, CT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Centennial Purple, Optimara Harlequin, Canadian Sunset; Best in Show/Best Standard: Centennial Purple, **Sylvia Siegel**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Scooter, Rob's Heebie Jeebie, Rob's Whodunit; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Scooter; Best Miniature: Everdina; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lynn Wallach**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'King's Cloak', **Jean Simons**. Design Sweepstakes, **Cindy O'Brien**.

SOCIETE DES SAINTPAULIA DE MONTREAL, CAN - Winners: Suncoast Paisley Print, Picasso, Mindi Morn, **Marie Gagnon**. Best in Show: Picasso, **Claire Gamache**. Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Aztec, **Colette Rioux**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Marie Bellehumeur**. Best Trailer: Foxwood Trail, **Nicole Charbonneau**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Daniel', **Clarie Gendron**.

SUNDOWNERS AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Marching Band, Rodeo Country; Best in Show/Best Standard: Wrangler's Snowfields; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary McFarland**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Marching Band, Rodeo Showgirl, **Lura Weathers**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #6, **Peggy Luzarraga**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Prize, Rob's Gray Ghost, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Rob's Humpty Doo; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Elmer Godeny**. Best Miniature: Gleeeful Elf, **Robert Truax**. Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields', **Carolyn Foster**.

SWEET WATER AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Ontario, Heavenly Notes, Bud's Melanie; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Eleanor Hull**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Antonia, Lela Marie, Wild Irish Rose; Best in Show/Best Standard: Wild Irish Rose; Best Semiminiature: Moon Gold; Design Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Klein**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: White Dew, Rob's Puddy Cat, Teen Sweetheart; Best Trailer: Foxwood Trail, **Violets By Appointment**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst, **Mildred Kiernan**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* Lite, **Eileen Montgomery**. Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Clown Prince', **Ray Annabel**. Best Design, **Marilyn Heinrich**.

TIDEWATER AVS, VA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Private Stock, Picasso, Harbor Blue; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Ness' Firefly, Rob's Hopscotch; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hopscotch; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Christmas Mom'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Pat Knight**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Magnolia, Lela Marie, Tahita Petticoats; Best Design, **Carol Van**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Milky Way Trail, Rob's Toorooka, Rob's Sticky Wicket; Design Sweepstakes, **Marie Mulroy**. Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Rose Dudley**.

UNPREDICTABLES AVS, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blanche Holt, Hoot-n-toot, Ness' Sizzlin' Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Katsuko Davison**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, *Saintpaulia velutina*, *Saintpaulia magungensis* var. *mini-*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Linda Golubski**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Silver Spook, Rob's Dust Storm, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **June Bartrum**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Handmade, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Boondoggle; Best Miniature: Everdina, **Wilma Wolverson**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **Kathy Lundgren**. Best Trailer: Snowy Trail, **Beulah Cupito**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sylvia Prince**.

VENTURA COUNTY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: D'Artagnan, East Wind, Optimara Van Gogh; Best Standard: Burnished Halo, **Floyd Lawson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Denny Boo, Prancing Pony; Best Semiminiature: Denny Boo; Best Trailer: Sunset Trail; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ann Wang**. Best in Show/Best Miniature: Petite Jewel, **Sandy Purins**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **Barbara Nussear**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Happy Willie', **Leslie Cox**.

VIOLETS AND FRIENDS, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Happy Chris, Apache Romance, Optimara Leonardo Davinci; Best in Show/Best Standard: Raphael; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Terena Stotler**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Chimney Sweep, White Dew, Shy Blue, **Martha Bradney**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Miniature: Tiny Moon Goddess, **Shirley Jones**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Greta', **Sheila Tipps**.

THE VIOLET PATCH OF SOUTH FLORIDA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vintage Wine, Tiger's Son, Favorite Child; Best Standard: Pink Ahoy; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Beatrice Marx**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Shy Blue, Dean's Bunny Blue; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush, **Martha Spyridon**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Girelda, **Carolee Carter**. Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', **Leticia Potter**. Best Design, **Jana Finchum**. Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Lynn Di Maio**.

JOIN THE AFRICAN VIOLET CONNECTION MAIL GROUP

by Lynda C. Welchel • San Antonio, Texas

Welcome to the electronic community and the wonderful world of African violet information via the Internet. The African Violet Connection (AVC) mail group provides African violet information delivered free of charge to your e-mail account 365 days a year, rain or shine.

E-mail may be received via your computer, or you can use a web-TV box. A web-TV box attaches to your TV and gives you access to the internet without a computer, allowing you to receive e-mail and the ability to "surf the net". (The web-TV box with keyboard starts as low as \$200.00). You will need to have a phone line nearby or have one installed, and also subscribe to a provider service (probably about \$20.00 per month.) A lot of people only have e-mail. Can they subscribe? Yes! Anyone can apply to subscribe to the list.

One great advantage for a new subscriber is that you can access the archives on the African Violet Connection 24 hours per day. You can search for information previously posted by subject, author, or date. Subscribers to the group are from America, Europe, Sweden, Canada, Australia, Asia and come from all walks of life.

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

- Read this list on the Web at
<<http://www.FindMail.com/list/avconnectionn>>
- To subscribe, email to
<avconnectionn-subscribe@makelist.com>
- To unsubscribe, email to
<avconnectionn-unsubscribe@makelist.com>

Once you subscribe, the web site will contact you asking that you reply to confirm your subscription. That's all there is to it! You will receive all mail posted to the African

Violet Connection everyday, within minutes of a message being posted.

If you choose to reply to a message you can use the reply portion of your message mailbox or enter this address <connectionn@findmail.com> (PLEASE NOTE: connectionn (has 2 'n's on the end of the word)

The African Violet Connection is open to the public, and there are restrictions on what you can and cannot post. These are explained on the web page, but if you have specific questions, please send me a private e-mail message to <lcwelchel@stic.net>

A sampling of subjects already discussed are light tubes for plants stands, soil mixtures, repotting day strategy and techniques, transporting African violets in your car, mildew, sporting violets, growing in hot conditions, various ways to wick a plant, fertilizers, variegation and show plant strategy.

Future Plans:

- Look for a message discussing a leaf exchange in the fall.
- Members of the AVC mail group are planning to meet one another at the Lone Star African Violet Convention in Austin, Texas this fall.
- Plans are also being formulated to have an informal get together at the AVSA Convention next year in Houston, Texas.

Hope to visit with you in cyberspace very soon!

Lynda C. Welchel
List Manager
African Violet Connection

There are several forums/mail groups for African violet enthusiasts to join:

- Gesneriophiles Mail Group
<<http://spot.colorado.edu/~otton/g.html>>
- Judges Forum on AVSA Web Sit
<http://www.avsa.org/judges_forum.html>
- AOL Violet Board - Instructions for reaching:
After logging on to AOL, go to the CHANNELS screen. Click on "Interests". When that screen comes up, click

on "Home and Garden" under "departments". On that screen, click on "Gardening", then click on "Post tips - A to Z". Click on the A-L Message Boards, then "African Violets" to reach the AOL Violet Board. (Be sure and mark this as a "favorite place" so you can automatically reach it each time you log on.)

- Garden Web AV Forum
<<http://www.gardenweb.com/forums/afrviolet/>>
- AV Connection Mail Group
<<http://www.FindMail.com/list/avconnectionn/>>



AVSA and Today's Technologies

by John Carter
AVSA Technology Committee
JTCarter@worldnet.att.net

Does your affiliate need members? Would you like to start a new affiliate? The first step is to maintain your affiliate membership. You should also provide information about your affiliate for posting on the Internet. Bev Promersberger at promers@juno.com will assist you in that effort. If you wish to recruit members for your affiliate from the AVSA membership, I can provide you with name and address information of AVSA members in your area which will allow you to contact them with an invitation to visit your meeting and learn the benefits of membership in your club.

The principle use of the AVSA computing system is for the maintenance of the membership. AVSA membership is important not only to AVSA but also to the many affiliate members. AVSA does not know if a member is associated with an affiliate nor does it know the number of members in an affiliate. It is not the intent of AVSA to try to maintain that level of data either. We do not know if the members that are not renewing are or were associated with an affiliate. What we do see are a number of members not renewing after their first year of membership. If they were active in an affiliate, would they have renewed their membership?

I recently made an analysis of the AVSA membership in the Houston area and compared that membership count to the number of members in the affiliates. The membership count of the affiliates was not as accurate as the AVSA

membership count, but it appears that no more than 30 percent of the AVSA members in the Houston area are associated with an affiliate club. Is that important? It is if the affiliates are in need of members. It is important to AVSA if the association with the affiliate will help retain the person as an AVSA member.

If you would like to receive AVSA membership information in a computer format, make that known in your request to Bev.

We recommend that you request the information by zip code if you live in a larger city or in an area where you may draw members from nearby communities. The information can be provided in different formats. If you have someone familiar with computers, we can send the information on a diskette or attached to an e-mail note in any number of forms. If you only want a listing on paper, we can provide it in that format. Providing the data electronically is a new effort so we need to learn what will help you and develop procedures that will make it easy to respond to your requests in a timely manner.

This offer is only made to affiliates, and the information is not to be used for any commercial purpose. Your request must include your affiliate name and the person to receive the information. If you can receive the data electronically, we only need your e-mail address. If you want a diskette or listings mailed to you, please include your address and zip code.

Awards Needed For The 1999 Houston Convention

With the participation of the clubs and growers in Texas, where we all know they "do things bigger and better", the 1999 Houston Convention should be a great success. Let's get those awards in early so they will be published in the January/February 1999 AVM with all other convention information. Make your checks payable

to the AVSA Convention Fund and mail to:
Linda Golubski, AVSA Awards Committee Chairman
1416 N.W. A Street
Blue Springs, MO 64015
(816) 229-2015 after 6 pm CDT
<golubski@kc.net>

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

ANNUAL MEETING

April 25, 1998 • Sacramento, California

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America was called to order by Third Vice President, Jack Wilson, at 3:05 PM in the Edgewater Ballroom F at the Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, California. The Invocation was given by Floyd Lawson. A moment of silence was observed for those members who are deceased. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Jack presented the President, Esther Edwards Wells.

Sue Ramser, Secretary, reported a quorum was present.

President Wells introduced Normadene N. Carpenter, Professional Registered Parliamentarian, who served as Parliamentarian for the Annual Meeting.

The Secretary read the Standing Rules for the Annual Meeting and they were adopted.

President Wells appointed Doreen Lay to serve as Chairman of the Committee to Approve the Minutes, Gary Gordon and Linda Owens, members. Ron Davidson was appointed Timekeeper. In the absence of Charles Wells, Chairman of the 1997 Committee to Approve the Minutes, the President reported that the minutes were approved.

Elinor Skelton, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented the Courtesy Resolution which is attached. The Resolution was adopted.

Pat Richards, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following report: Director Nominees: Dolores Gibbs, Texas; Olive Ma Robinson, Taiwan/New York; Wilma Namumnart, Hawaii; Patricia Sutton, Oklahoma; and Mary Ann Switzer, Missouri.

Bev Promersberger, Affiliate Committee Chairman, reported for the Affiliate Committee. The Affiliate Committee is offering affiliates an opportunity to list affiliate information on the web site. They will be listed under the city and state where the affiliate meets.

Article V, Section 4, of the Bylaws states that elections shall be by ballot vote; however, when there is only one nominee for an office, the election may be by voice vote. The following Directors were nominated by the Nominating Committee to serve until the close of the Annual Meeting in the year 2001: Dolores Gibbs, Olive Ma Robinson, Wilma Namumnart, Patricia Sutton, and Mary Ann Switzer. Hearing no nominations from the floor, a

voice vote was conducted and the new Directors were elected. The President announced that the new Directors would be installed at the Saturday Evening Banquet.

The five Directors who completed their terms this year were recognized: Barbara Elkin, Mary Lou Harden, Betty Roberson, Shirley Sanders, and Laura Walker.

Meredith Hall, 1999 Convention Chairman, on behalf of the Lone Star African Violet Council, invited the membership to attend the 1999 Convention at the Adams Mark Hotel, Houston, Texas.

Linda Golubski, Awards Chairman, announced that those award winners who had not picked up their awards should contact her.

President Wells announced that the Board approved four research grants totaling over \$14,000 from the Boyce Edens Research Fund at their April 22 Board meeting. Dr. Cole explained the grants: Dr. Michael Moeller will conduct research on DNA typing and genetic sequencing of the African violet species; Dr. Larry Barnes will conduct research on Botritis control and other viruses of African violets; Dr. Michael Way will study thrips and test methods of allowing a fumigant to be placed in a confined area to control thrips and other insects; and Dr. Harvey Lang will be working with African violets to determine the effect of water quality, soil type, and fertilizer type on the growth, soil pH, and soluble salts. The last three will be presented in the AVM within three months. The President also announced that the Board approved the establishment of an AVSA Scholarship Committee.

Anne and Frank Tinari were recognized for their attendance at 50 Conventions. Raffle winners were announced.

There was no other business to come before the Annual Meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 3:42 PM.

Sue Ramser, Secretary

COMMITTEE TO APPROVE

Doreen Lay

Gary Gordon

Linda Owens

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS – MODIFIED CASH BASIS

DECEMBER 31, 1997

ASSETS	1997	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS (continued)	1997
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash	\$102,884	Deferred membership fees (note 1)	\$ 73,028
Investments (note 2)	165,387	Deferred life memberships (note 5)	109,275
Credit card receivable	—	Deferred income, future conventions.	2,735
Inventory	13,530	Deferred revenue - other (note 1)	727
Prepaid expenses	10,309	Total current liabilities	192,569
Total current assets	292,110		
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT , net of accumulated depreciation of \$66,873 and \$61,448 (note 4)	112,085	NEW ASSETS:	
OTHER ASSETS:		Unrestricted:	
Reorganization costs net of accumulated amortization of \$4,880 and \$4,880 (note 6) ..	—	Operating	7,163
PERMANENT RESTRICTED ASSETS:		Board designated - convention.	25,878
Investments (notes 1 and 5)	32,500	Board designated - life membership	17,077
Total assets	\$436,695	Board designated - Boyce Eden	49,324
		Board designated - Hudson awards	1,152
		Board designated - building	—
		Property and equipment	108,035
		Total unrestricted net assets	208,629
		Temporarily restricted.	2,997
		Permanent restricted	32,500
		Total net assets	244,126
		Total liabilities and net assets	\$436,695
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Payroll and sales tax liabilities	\$ 1,365		
Deferred advertising income (notes 1 and 3)	5,439		

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

One of the greater Conventions has come and gone (I'm biased) and for the most part El Niño was kept at bay. And you know what? I can't take credit for either. The former was handled by the best chairs and workers ever. The latter was handled by someone with more power than we mere mortals. Once again, I want to thank all the members of California, and those from out of state, who made this event the best ever. A convention is only as good as the people who do all the work.

How about that full size miner, Quito's, and those terrific dancers? The Banjo Band kept our feet tapping, and I know for sure that Clyde, the donkey, had a great outing, eating all those cookies. I missed the tours and will have to take your word for it, but from what I heard, they were fun too.

Now, down to the business at hand. I received, as usual, many 1998 catalogs from the commercial members of our society. There were so many new, or should I say old, (maybe I should say new to my Master Vintage Violet List,) varieties in these catalogs. If only there were enough space to list all the plants found this year. Spend a buck or two and order your catalogs every spring and reap the treasure of our

past heritage.

If you want me to look for a Vintage Violet for you, please remember to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for my reply. If you do receive something from someone good enough to share, always return the postage whether asked for or not.

For our **FOREIGN** members, skip the postage; the money exchange causes too many problems. AVSA has offered to pay the postage. While we're at it, try my e-mail address. No postage is required, and it's much faster. <jabar@foothill.net>

See you in Houston!

The following varieties have been found:

Amethyst, Butterfly White, Coppertips, Coral Glo, Corpus Christi, Lady Mountbattan, Le Bon Creole, Little Rascal, Mary, Mighty Mini, Modern Jewel, Ness' Minnesota Splash, Norseman, Nymph Fly, Rob's Sailor Bill, Roseberry, Rainbow's Black Frost, Rainbow's Tequila Sunrise, Painted Sunset, Suncoast Wedgewood, Tidecrest, Unpredictable, White Lace, and Zaca-roonie.

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

Antique Elegance
Ballet Erica
Dominion Rose
Granger's Fashionaire
Granger's Eternal Snow
Granger's Venetian Lace

Great White Way
Just Beautiful
Pink Velvet
Regina
Rosy Frills



'Net'tiquette, The Language of the Internet :-)

by Ellen Wass Beckerman

Most members of our society can be said to use good manners. We're nice, friendly people interested in African violets. This common ground makes it easier for us to interact, even if we are from different states or countries. At our conventions we have lots of visual communication such as demonstrations, and we have plenty of photographs and illustrations in our magazine to help us learn about African violet growing. Unfortunately, communication via the Internet is primarily written and unlike communication in person where you can visually interpret facial expressions or on the telephone where you can hear the qualities in a person's voice. Communication on the Internet must be made completely with the written word.

AVOID THAT CAPS LOCK KEY!!!

The very first lesson a new Internet user should learn when posting information to a bulletin board, entering comments on a survey or simply e-mailing friends and associates is: DO NOT TYPE IN ALL CAPITAL LETTERS. CAPITAL LETTERS are used only for EMPHASIS. Any Net-knowledgeable user who reads your correspondence will immediately assume that you are ANGRY and that you are SHOUTING AT THEM!

The opposite, typing in all lowercase letters, is also not recommended. It is very difficult to find the beginning of a sentence when an initial capital isn't used. In addition, many people find it insulting if you do not capitalize the letter at the beginning of their name or of their company's name.

E-mail is Public

Remember that sending an e-mail message can be similar to having your mother show your baby pictures to all of your friends and relatives. Forwarding an e-mail message to another person is a common practice and many people enjoy sharing cute stories and jokes with each other. However, it's important to remember to be polite and courteous, especially if you are posting a complaint. (Many times it's best to write the message in your word processor and wait a day before you copy it to your browser to send, giving you the opportunity to change your mind after you've cooled down.) Nasty, rude communications usually spawn nastier responses. This type of insulting communication is called FLAMING.

SPAM is not a Meat By-Product

Spamming is the act of sending an unsolicited message to a large number of people, usually for the purpose of advertising. It's not spam if you've voluntarily put your name on a list. It's perfectly acceptable to send a message to a group of people that you are working with; one of the best examples is sharing information with members of an AVSA committee. Group messages are some of the quickest and most effective methods of keeping people informed.

DO NOT TO FORWARD CHAIN MAIL. People who use e-mail regularly get dozens of messages per day. DO NOT harass them by sending them junk messages. (People who forward chain mail messages have been known to get spammed with an avalanche of junk messages by angry chain mail recipients.)

A Few Special Characters :-)

Since we must communicate with words on the Internet, a whole language of special characters and abbreviations has been developed over the years. I've included a few of the most commonly used in the inset shown above. You can find lots of others at www.bellsouth.net, click on the member help section.

Special Characters & Abbreviations	
:-) or :)	Happy Smiley (with or without nose)
;-) or ;)	Wink (with or without nose)
: (	Frown
(grin) or (g)	Indicates you're grinning
IMHO	In My Humble Opinion
FYI	For Your Information
TTFN	Ta Ta For Now

Ellen Wass Beckerman is an AVSA member and Apple Macintosh computer consultant near Charlotte, North Carolina. Her internet address is: e_mail@bellsouth.net

1998 AVSA Convention Commercial Display Tables

by Ruth Goeke • Brenham, TX

An exciting week filled with friends, fun, food, sight-seeing, and beautiful plants was enjoyed by everyone who had the fortunate experience of attending the 52nd AVSA convention held in Sacramento, California in April.

One of the highlights of every convention is the commercial display section of the show. While there were only three display tables this year, each was beautifully done and all of these plants traveled many miles to appear in the show. Our commercial members work very hard to bring us these lovely plants and new varieties.

Taking top honors of Best Display Table were **Sidney and Paul Sorano of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Dolgeville, New York**. All of their plants were exquisite and covered with many blossoms. Their table featured 36 miniature and semiminature plants and three standards. All three best new introductions were found on this table. Best New Introduction was awarded to 'Ms. Smartypants', a semiminature chimera with white, semidouble, slightly cupped pansy-shaped blooms, pink center stripes and a frilly green edge. Second Best New Introduction was 'Hula Hoop', a small light blue semidouble chimera with a white stripe and miniature, medium-green foliage. Third Best New Introduction, 'Little Chatterbox', features deep pink stars splashed with deep blue fantasy over deep green semiminature foliage. You'll want to get at least one of each! Other varieties on this table included 'Party Flirt', 'Katia', 'Tequila Sunrise', 'Ice Storm', and 'Hotsy Totsy'. Standards exhibited were 'Hawaiian Pearl', which has lovely ivory stars banded in a wide halo of deep lavender-rose and deep green foliage. Blossoms of deep pink with green ruffling on petal edges literally danced over the large, dark green, red-backed foliage of 'April in Paris'. 'Boo Man' had such a full head of blossoms you could hardly see the foliage and 'Lyon's June Bug' is another necessity for your collection. Its perfect rosette form will surely bring home that best in class. There was nothing shy about a pretty little semiminature named 'Bashful'. It was simply loaded with soft white blossoms mottled in shades of pink and fuchsia.

Ralph and Olive Robinson of Rob's Mini-o-Lets located in **Naples, New York**, exhibited another beautiful display table that we have come to expect. They took hon-

ors as having the Second Best Display Table. He entered 45 lovely miniature and semiminature plants. My favorites on this table were 'Rob's Boogie Woogie' and 'Rob's Twinkle Blue'. 'Rob's Boogie Woogie' won second best new cultivar at last year's AVSA convention and has lots of medium pink semidoubles over variegated foliage. 'Rob's Twinkle Blue' is a must-have! It is a very tiny plant with lots of deep blue semi-bell shaped blossoms over very tiny pointed dark foliage. This micromini is perfect for those container gardens. There were several groupings of this precious little plant and it made for a striking exhibit. 'Rob's Macho Devil' is a variety you'll want to include in your collection. Other varieties displayed were 'Rob's Fiddlesticks', 'Rob's Dandy Lion', 'Rob's Perfect Peach', 'Rob's Boondoggle', and everyone's favorite, 'Rob's Fiddle Faddle'. 'Rob's Heat Wave' was sizzling. Receiving the coveted award of having the best overall plant in the commercial display division was a plant of 'Rob's Boogie Woogie'. 'Rob's Gizmo' was lovely with its mass of large pink stars covering semiminature foliage.

Shannon Ahlmann of The Violet Showroom of Grand Island, Nebraska, entered 15 large, lovely standards and received the award of Third Best Display Table. Seven of these had variegated foliage. For those of you who like edged blossoms, make a note of 'Strawberry Wave'. It has lovely huge strawberry pink semidoubles with a raspberry sparkle edge. Several striking new varieties were featured on Shannon's table, and they included 'Blue Dragon', a Sorano hybrid with huge, light blue blossoms and two hybrids from Ruby Cox, including 'California Berries' which had beautiful berry red white-edged blossoms that literally glowed. This will be a welcome addition to any collection. 'Pink Flasher', the other new Cox variety, was also a striking plant with its pink and white blossoms. It was wonderful to see a number of Apache plants exhibited on this table. The Apache series is hybridized by J.C. Munk of Houston, Texas, and Apache varieties are all large-growing plants with gorgeous variegated foliage and large lovely blooms. You'll want to check out 'Apache Thunderbird' with its deep purple semidoubles and green edges, 'Apache Wonder', which has wonderful pink-edged semidoubles, 'Apache Star', whose large pink stars shone above the beautiful variegated foliage, and my favorite,

Continued on bottom of page 51

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

***Maty** (8725) 4/20/98 (D. Harrington) Single red/violet overlay. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**

John Brownlie - Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

***Therese** (8726) 4/25/98 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble pink two-tone pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain. **Standard**

***Yvon Decelles** (8727) 4/25/98 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble blue star/white streaks, edge. **Variegated** medium green, pink and white, scalloped. **Standard**

June Swift - Dallas, TX

***Pastel Parasol** (8728) 5/18/98 (J. Swift) Single-semidouble lavender-pink large frilled star/white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

NAME RESERVATIONS

David Buttram - Independence, MO

*Fantasy Magic * Fire House * Hello Twilight * Raspberry Magic

Jean Stokes - Sacramento, CA

* Go Go Dancer * Mucho Bonito * Que Pasa * Que Sera Sera
* Quixotic Lass

Cathy Cornibe - Santa Cruz, CA

* Madam President * San Mateo

Ed Ellwood - Roanoke, VA

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Ellwood's) *
Blue Beth * California Carrie * Lavender Liz * Lil Liz * Pink Beth
* Pretty Carrie



"Display Tables" continued from page 50

'Apache Victory'. Other lovely plants exhibited included 'Powder Keg', 'Stargate', and 'Sequins 'n Ribbons'.

In the Specimen Class Division, there were a number of familiar names taking the top awards. **Shirley Sanders of Shirley's House of Violets, San Antonio, Texas**, exhibited the Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: 'Optimara Little Moonstone', 'Optimara Rose Quartz', 'Optimara Little Diamond'; Second Best Holtkamp Collection which included 'Optimara Rose Quartz', 'Optimara Little Lapis', 'Optimara Little Ruby'.

Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, Nebraska, won the Best Holtkamp collection consisting of 'Optimara South Dakota', 'Optimara Harlequin', and 'Rhapsodie Angelica'. The best standard with green foliage was 'Good Morning', also exhibited by Kent.

Fay Wagman of Violet Venture, Petterford, New York, received these awards: Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: 'Frosted Denim', 'Rob's Tippy Toe', 'Ness Angel

Babe', Third Best Holtkamp Collection, 'Optimara Little Crystal', 'Optimara Little Apatite', and 'Optimara Rose Quartz'. Best semiminiature, green foliage: 'Rob's Iridium Queen', Best semiminiature, variegated foliage: 'Rob's Hallucination'. Fay also took honors of having the best African violet in the commercial specimen class with 'Ness' Angel Babe'; second best African violet in the commercial specimen class: 'Rob's Iridium Queen'; and the third best in specimen class: 'Rob's Penny Ante'; best miniature with green foliage: 'Rob's Penny Ante'; and sweepstakes with 17 blue ribbons.

Lynn Lombard, The Velvet Leaf of Colfax, California took honors of the Best Other Gesneriad with a lovely specimen of *Columnea* 'Julia'.

Gini McCanne of Claremont, California entered the Best miniature, variegated foliage: 'Petite Jewel', and best trailer: 'Cirelda'.

We'll enjoy growing the new varieties and look forward to seeing the commercial displays and entries again next year in Houston.

Coming Events



September 11 - 12 - FLORIDA

Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society and
Upper Pinellas AVS
Joint Show/Sale
Clearwater Mall, US 19 & Gulf to Bay
Clearwater, FL
Both days: 10am - 9pm
Info: Phyllis King (813) 398 - 7450

September 11 - 13 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council Show/Sale
Eden Prairie Mall
Highways 464 & 169
Mall Hours
Info: Barbara Werness (612) 754 - 3918

September 12 - CALIFORNIA

AVS of San Francisco Plant Sale
San Francisco Co Fair Bldg
9th Ave and Lincoln Way
San Francisco, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Judy and Fred Grafelman (415) 664 - 9308

September 12 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura County AVS Plant Sale
Buenaventura Mall, Mills Rd and Main St
Ventura, CA
Hours: 10am - 6pm
Info: Lisa Martinez (805) 983 - 3522

September 18 & 19 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS of Dallas Plant Clinic and Sale
Plano Market Square Mall (Garden Ridge)
1717 Spring Creek Pkwy. and Ave K, Plano, TX
Sept 18 - 10am - 9pm
Sept 19 - 10am - 6pm
Info: (214) 278 - 0389

September 19 - CANADA

Stampede City AVS Plant Sale
Market Mall Shopping Center
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Mall Hours
Info: Winston Goretsky (403) 241 - 8300

September 25 & 26 - IOWA

Cedar Valley AVC Show/Sale
Crossroads Mall
Waterloo, IA
Sept 25 - 10am - 9pm
Sept 26 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Barb Pershing (319) 987 - 2235

September 25 & 26 - TENNESSEE

Volunteer State AV Council Show
Memphis Botanic Gardens
Goldsmith Civic Garden Center, Memphis, TN
Both Days: 9am - 6pm
Info: Brenda Brasfield (601) 895 - 2002

September 26 - MISSOURI

Metropolitan St. Louis
AV Council 16th Annual Show/Sale
West Port Plaza, Indoor Mall
St. Louis, MO
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Mildred Borsch (314) 878 - 8187

September 26 & 27 - NEBRASKA

Omaha AVS Exhibit/Sale
Westroads Mall
102nd & W Dodge Rd
Omaha, NE
Info: Patty Burke (402) 289 - 3328

September 26 & 27 - CALIFORNIA

San Joaquin AVS Display/Sale
Weberstown Mall
4950 Pacific Ave
Stockton, CA
Sept 26 - 10am - 7pm
Sept 27 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Evelyn Stein (209) 835 - 2983

September 26 & 27 - ILLINOIS

Glenview/North Shore AVS Sale/Exhibit
Friendship Conservatory
395 Algonquin Rd
Des Plaines, IL
Info: (847) 729 - 1690

October 2 & 3 - TEXAS

First AVS of Dallas Plant Sale
Richardson Square Mall
Beltline & Plano Rd
Richardson, TX
Hours: 10am - 9pm
Info: (972) 278 - 0389

October 3 - WASHINGTON

Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma Plant Sale
Poole's Nursery and Garden Center
6th & Union, Proctor District
Tacoma, WA
Hours: 10am - 3pm

October 3 - CONNECTICUT

Judging School
Windsor Library, Windsor, CT
Nancy Hayes, Teacher
Hours: 9am - 4:30pm
\$15.00 fee
Reservations: Ruth Warren (401) 624 - 7373

October 3 & 4 - OHIO

Ohio State AVS Show/Sale
Kingwood Center, Park Ave
Mansfield, OH
Oct 3 - 1pm - 5pm
Oct 4 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Linda Owens (614) 876 - 1805

October 3 & 4 - LOUISIANA

Louisiana Council of AV Judges & Growers
(LACO) Show/Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center
7950 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA
Oct 3 - 2pm - 6pm
Oct 4 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Mary McFarland (225) 923 - 3337

October 9 & 10 - NORTH CAROLINA

First Goldsboro AVS Show/Sale
Berkeley Mall
Goldsboro, NC
Mall Hours
Info: Frances Deans (919) 778 - 3179

October 9 - 11 - FLORIDA

AV Council of Florida Show/Sale
Coral Ridge Mall
Oakland Park Blvd & Federal Hwy
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Oct 9 & 10 - 9am - 9pm
Oct 11 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Janice Stencil (954) 472 - 4475

October 10 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Plant Sale
Coddington Mall, Guerneville Rd @ Hwy 101
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Sherry Olsen (707) 836 - 0910

October 10 - NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque Saintpaulia Society
AV Design Competition
Winrock Mall, Louisiana & I-40
Coincides with Albuquerque International
Balloon Fiesta
Judges Needed
Info: Judy Sturtevant (505) 275 - 0170

October 10 & 11 - CALIFORNIA

Delta Gesneriad and AV Society Show/Sale
Shepherd Garden and Arts Center
3300 McKinley Blvd
Sacramento, CA
Oct 10 - 2pm - 5pm
Oct 11 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Barbara Elkin (530) 878 - 0505

October 10 & 11 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS Display/Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI
Oct 10 - 10am - 4:30pm
Oct 11 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Loreen Callentine (517) 345 - 9053

October 16 - 18 - WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs Judged Show/Sale
89 East Towne Mall
Madison, WI
Oct 16 & 17 - 10am - 9pm
Oct 18 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Alice Peterson (608) 833 - 5552

October 16 - 18 - MINNESOTA

Lakes Area Violet Growers Display/Sale
Maplewood Mall
White Bear Ave @ I-694
Maplewood, MN
Oct 16 - 10am - 9pm
Oct 17 - 10am - 6pm
Oct 18 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Jean Ness (612) 429 - 4109

October 17 - TEXAS

First Austin AVS Plant Sale
Zilker Park Club House
Barton Springs Rd
Austin, TX
Hours: 10am - 4:30pm

October 17 & 18 - MISSOURI

Gateway West Gesneriad Society Show
Missouri Botanical Garden
Ridgeway Center
4344 Shaw Blvd
St. Louis, MO
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Pat Dunlap (314) 789 - 3604

October 23 & 24 - FLORIDA

Gulf AVC Display/Sale
Ft. Meyers - Lee County Garden Council Bldg
2646 Cleveland Ave, Ft. Meyers, FL
Oct 23 - 9am - 6:30pm
Oct 24 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Eleanor Duerr (941) 574 - 2489

October 24 - ARKANSAS

North Central Arkansas AVS Show/Sale
Jacksonville Community Ctr.
5 Municipal Dr
Jacksonville, AR
Hours: 9am - 5pm
Info: Danny Tidwell (501) 726 - 4803

October 24 - NEBRASKA

Missouri Valley AV Council Show/Sale
Holiday Inn Convention Center
3321 S. 72nd
Omaha, NE
Hours: Noon - 5pm
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 - 1478

October 23 & 24 - CALIFORNIA

AV Council of Southern California
Judged Show/Sale
Trinity Lutheran Church
997 East Walnut
Pasadena, CA
Both Days: 10am - 5pm
Info: Mary Blancher (818) 363 - 6222

October 29 - November 1 - TEXAS

Lone Star AV Council State Convention & Show
Holiday Inn - South
I-35 South
Austin, TX
Info: Judy Carter (281) 492 - 2034

October 31 & November 1 - MINNESOTA

AVS of Minnesota Show
Har Mar Mall
2000 Snelling Ave and Cty B
Roseville, MN

October 31 & November 1 - CALIFORNIA

San Mateo Co. AVS Judged Show/Sale
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way
San Mateo, CA
Oct 31 - 2pm - 5pm
Nov 1 - 9:30am - 3pm
Info: Al Cornibe (408) 423 - 7297

October 31 - November 1 - CONNECTICUT

Nutmeg State AVS Annual Show/Sale
Days Inn
Exit 55, I-95
Branford, CT
Oct 31 - 1pm - 5pm
Nov 1 - 10am - 4pm
Info: (203) 281 - 1715

November 6 & 7 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Sale
Tarrytown Mall
Bypass 301 & Hwy\ 64
Rocky Mount, NC
Both days: 10am - 7pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

November 7 & 8 - NEW JERSEY

Tristate AV Council Annual Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
Joseph F. Haggerty Center
51 East Hanover Ave
Morristown, NJ
Nov 7 - 1:30pm - 5pm
Nov 8 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Carol Ann Burrell (914) 896 - 8605

November 7 & 8 - MISSOURI

Mid-America AVS Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center
5200 Pennsylvania
Kansas City, MO
Nov 7 - 10am - 4pm
Nov 8 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Grace McCumin (913) 722 - 4085

November 12 - 14 - MARYLAND

Mid-Atlantic AVS Convention and Show
Hosted by Baltimore AVC
BWI Sheraton Hotel
Baltimore-Washington International Airport
Baltimore, MD
Info: Ken Barbi (410) 757 - 5044

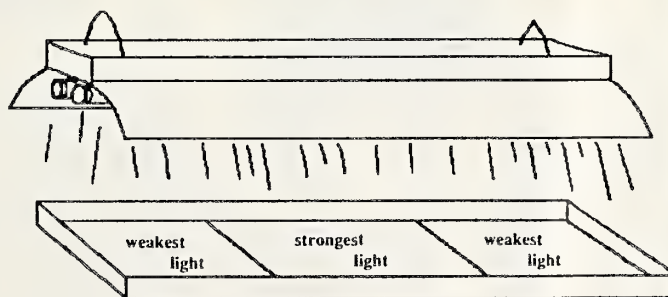


Placing African Violets Under Lights

If you want to grow show-quality violets, you should know where the weakest and strongest light is located. Refer to the drawing.

In general, if a violet lifts up its leaves, it needs more light. Move it closer to the center of the lights, or elevate it up closer to the lights. If its leaves curl down, get brittle, or look bleached, it needs less light. Move it closer to the ends of the lights or to a spot adjacent to the lights.

It may take a little experimenting to find out where each violet is the happiest.



Reprinted from the California Council News

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

September Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 TUE	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
2 WED	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
3 THU 4:21 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
4 FRI	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
5 SAT 7:48 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
6 SUN	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	Full 6:22 am
7 MON 8:53 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
8 TUE	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
9 WED 9:17 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
10 THU	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
11 FRI 10:41 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
12 SAT	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th 8:58 pm
13 SUN 2:20 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
14 MON	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
15 TUE 8:48 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
16 WED	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
17 THU	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
18 FRI 5:51 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
19 SAT	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
20 SUN 4:57 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	New 12:01 pm
21 MON	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
22 TUE	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
23 WED 5:22 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
24 THU	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
25 FRI 6:05 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
26 SAT	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
27 SUN	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
28 MON 5:31 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd 4:12 pm
29 TUE	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
30 WED 1:54 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd

October Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 THU	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
2 FRI 6:24 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
3 SAT	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
4 SUN 7:32 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
5 MON	Aries	Fire	Barren	Full 3:12 pm
6 TUE 6:58 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
7 WED	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
8 THU 6:44 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
9 FRI	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
10 SAT 8:48 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
11 SUN	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
12 MON	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th 6:11 am
13 TUE 2:25 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
14 WED	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
15 THU 11:52 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
16 FRI	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
17 SAT 11:02 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
18 SUN	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
19 MON	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
20 TUE 11:37 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	New 5:10 am
21 WED	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
22 THU	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
23 FRI 12:17 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
24 SAT	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
25 SUN 12:05 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
26 MON	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
27 TUE 9:45 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
28 WED	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd 6:46 am
29 THU	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
30 FRI 3:58 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
31 SAT	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd

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Croteau's Astral, Coeur Corail, Impresario, Guest, Italian Spice (limited on this one)
NESS' Blueberry Puff, China Blue, Blue Wave, **ORANGE PEKOE** (we have a good number of this variety for fall shipment).
SORANO Holiday Lights, Christmas Glitter, Taffeta Petticoats, Painted Desert
STORK Gemstone Halo, Shattered Glass, Pen 'n' Ink, Pueblo, Marie, All Is Well
WILLIAMS Suncoast Circle Candy, Suncoast Retta - Ro, Suncoast Blue Cranberry
DECELLES Celebration, Coralina, Defi, Flamingo

MINIATURES-SEMIMINIATURES

LAMBERT'S Von's Soft Touch, Von's Small Gift, **Pittman's** Cool Blue, Gleeeful Elf, Peppy Pink, Planet Kid, Texas Space Dust
HOBBS-GREGG, Dean's Bashful, Dean's Lucienne, Dean's Ruby, Dean's Faded Rose
ROBINSON'S Rob's Boogie Woogie, Club Soda, Gizmo, Smarty Pants, Whoa Nellie, Twinkle Blue, Scarecrow

TRAILERS!!

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Space does not allow for us to give descriptions of all the lovely plants that we have available. You may order our 1998 catalog for \$1.00 which contains the descriptions.

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We will ship in the Northern and Eastern states until November 1st where weather permits. Southern states until mid-November.

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SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
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2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

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1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
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5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40
4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

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wicks not included) 16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price 32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

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4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.25	5.75	10.00
5" White, Lavender.	1.50	7.00	13.00
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5-50-17	Variegated Special	\$1.60	\$3.00
		1.60	3.00
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special	4 oz	12 oz
		1.25	3.00
20-20-20	General Purpose	4 oz.	16 oz.
15-30-15	House Plant Special	1.25	3.00
Dolomite Limestone		1.25	3.00
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse	20 oz.	40 oz.
	No. 6 Medium	1.75	3.25
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	4 qts.	16 qts.
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
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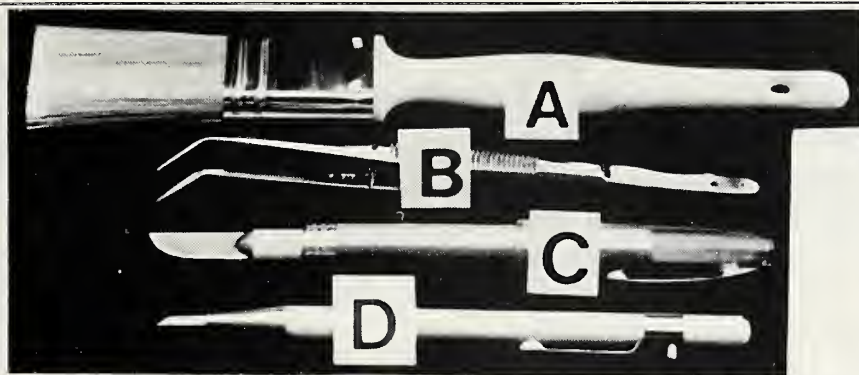
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Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 4" fluted pots

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
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MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
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FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4" Wh/Gr No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4" Wh/Gr With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
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6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

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#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
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Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Cir	\$1.75	\$15.00

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CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide	4 sq. ft	\$1.60
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Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



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Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
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6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
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15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

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VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00
	2 gal.	\$3.50
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00
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PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75
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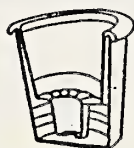
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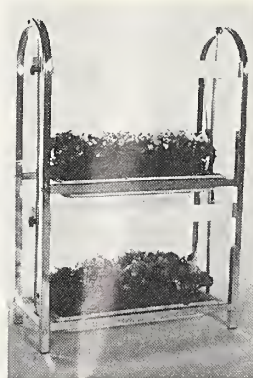
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African Violet

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November • December 1998

Volume 51

Number 6



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African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

November • December

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Best Semiminiature Trailer
1998 National Show
Grown and Exhibited by:
Jeani Hatfield
Hybridized by: P. Harris



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OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: pwilson941@aol.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: jtcarter@worldnet.att.net

Jane Rexilius, Publications
5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.





Season's Greetings

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season ...

rich in joy,

warm with lasting memories,

and full of peace.

Happy Holidays!

*Your AVSA Officers
and Staff*

Sue Meredith

Bill

L.J.

Jenny

Donna

Esther

Linda

Lynn

Ruth

*Joe & Ed
JANC*



Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

The holiday season is almost upon us and with the cooler weather my plants have finally picked up a little. As soon as I have time, I hope to repot a few of them. Anyone who has visited my office knows that I'll never be entering one of MY plants in a show, but I do enjoy them very much.

My office is on the second floor, in the northwest corner of the AVSA office building. I have wonderful tall windows on the north and west walls and all of my plants are on the window sills, and in the handy 3-tier window shelf I ordered from our good friends at Indoor Gardening Supplies. I urge all of you to support our advertisers. There are a lot of helpful supplies, as well as more and more of the AV varieties we all want to own, *only* available through our commercial members.

There is something for everyone in this issue of the African Violet Magazine. Our "For Beginners" columnists, **Kent** and **Joyce Stork** share their "Blooming Secrets", (page 6), and **David Buttram** takes us to the Pacific northwest for a visit with **Alannah** and **Bud Regan** of Alannah's African Violets, in "AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look", (page 20).

Ethel Champion possesses the oldest African violet plant we've ever heard of. Read about her 'Superman' on page 16, "The Story of Superman". This amazing plant is 46 years old!

My good friend, **Shirley Sanders** of San Antonio, TX, tells of her friendships with Russian AV growers in her article, "From Russia, With Love", (page 38).

Those of you interested in entering a spring show, be sure to turn to page 46 for "Judging the Show Plant". Information for these illustrations was compiled by **Bill Foster** and **Mary Ann Corrigan**, then drawn for the AVM by talented artist and AVSA member, **Penny Calvert** of Waterloo, IA. **Teachers, please feel free to photocopy this page as a handout for your judging schools. Judges may also want to take this page with them when judging a show.**

If you are wondering about the perfect holiday gift for

your friends and family members who grow African violets, please have a look at the different ideas offered by AVSA. On page 40 find an assortment of items all violet growers would enjoy. Also, see the short list of great gift ideas on page 57.

For those of you getting into the holiday spirit, we'll be offering beautiful Christmas Ornaments, featuring award winning violets from the 1998 convention show. Contact the office in early December for information on these special decorations. (See related notice on page 51).

I have a lot to be thankful for this holiday season. Thanks so much to all of you who submit articles for publication in the AVM. I hear from members, often, who appreciate the sharing of knowledge and ideas. Remember to let me know if you can think of a topic you'd like to see covered, or of a vintage article you think our newer members would enjoy reading. Also, a big "Thank You" to **Linda Yates**, who proofreads the AVM for us. It's good to be able to rely on someone with the knowledge, who is so enthusiastic about the work and doesn't mind the rushed pace of deadlines. Linda is a pleasure to work with.

Please turn to page 55 of this issue to read, "Exploring Houston, TX, 1999 AVSA Convention - April 4 - 11". **Connie Leifeste**, Woodway, TX, has compiled an excellent article that highlights some of the exciting points of interest in Houston for those of you who are inclined to strike out on your own and have a look around our host city. I know that all of the Texas folks are working diligently to ensure that the Houston convention will be one of the best. And, don't forget the tour that will bring you over to Beaumont and the AVSA Office.

Because of problems with color reproduction in the last issue of this magazine, a photo of 'Rob's Twinkle Blue', did not turn out well at all. I have run another photo of this darling plant in this issue (page 32), and appreciate your indulgence. (You too, Rob!)

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season filled with love and laughter!



Office Update

by Jenny Daugereau • AVSA Office Administrative Coordinator

2375 North
Beaumont, TX 77702
email avsa@earthlink.net

(409) 839-4725
(800) 770-2872

Happy Holidays from the AVSA office in Beaumont, Texas. Many of you have spoken with me over the last 4 years, as I was your AVSA Office Secretary. I took your orders, answered membership questions, and other secretarial duties, gaining experience in the daily operation of our office. In April, at the convention in Sacramento, I was promoted to this new position, and would like to thank our Board of Directors for the faith they have in my abilities.

Tammi Gotcher, our AVSA Office Secretary, and I, are here for YOU, our members. Please feel free to contact us at any time, with any question. If we do not have an answer, we can certainly direct you to the correct person.

The convention in Sacramento was my first and it was such a thrill to meet the members I had come to know so well over the phone. I finally was able to put faces with voices and names, and feel that I have many new AVSA friends.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed so generously to the computer update for the office. The new computers are allowing us to work more efficiently, and we have many more capabilities than we did with the old system.



*Thanks to Tracie Whitley for this photo of
Saint Paulia St. in Homosassa, FL.*

Thanks so much to **John Carter** of Houston, Texas. Over the last year John has volunteered hundreds of hours in this office, assisting us with the new computer system. John makes the drive to Beaumont whenever we need him, and he's always just a phone call away. Without John, the transition to the new system could not have been accomplished so successfully. Thanks also to **Judy**, John's wife, for the sacrifices they have both made for AVSA.

The clubs listed below were not listed in the September AVM insert. Please add them to you list.

Sho-Me AVC 9300 E 90th Pl
Pres. Tricia Taylor Kansas City MO 64239

Old Dominion AVS of Northern VA 10007 Bent Tree Ln
Pres. John Wilson Manassas VA 20111-4222

Moby Dick AVC 28 Minot St
Pres. John Cook Falmouth MA 02540-2840

Casper Bloomers PO Box 2811
Pres. Lita Snell Casper WY 82602-2811

Central CA AVS 5086 Bangor Ave
Pres. Renee Wilson Kingsburg CA 93631-9430

Attention Affiliate Club Presidents:

Watch for your Affiliate Insurance Forms, which will be coming soon. Please fill out the additional information form included with this mailing, whether you take advantage of the insurance or not. This additional form is to ensure that your club's correct information is made available for our office records and the AVSA web site.

This listing on the AVSA web site will help promote your club, enabling you to recruit new members.

If you are in our area during the holiday season, please drop by for a cup of hot chocolate. We do decorate the office for the holidays and have many beautiful African violets on display. The AVSA Office is easily located in Beaumont's Old Town Historic District. Give us a call (409) 839-4725 or (800) 770-2872 for directions.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

For Beginners



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

Blooming SECRETS

Most of the general public (and maybe even you) would say that any African violet is beautiful if it is blooming. It is easy to ignore other faults so long as the flowers keep up the show! Even top African violet growers would soon tire of the hobby if it weren't for the wonderful blossoms. Flowers are the jewels. We'd do almost anything to see them more often and in more profusion.

So what are the secrets to getting more flowers and getting them more often? There are some basic growing strategies that are necessary and, a few tricks too.

BRIGHT LIGHT

The most basic underlying reason why some folks have such success getting their violets to bloom is light. No other method will work as well, and nothing else will be successful if there is not enough light.

Violets must have fairly bright light to bloom. Most good growers try to provide twelve hours of quality light a day, often under fluorescent light tubes. If violets are grown at windows they must be placed quite near. Plants that are more than one foot (twelve inches) from a window will probably not get enough light. If that window is small, or blinds are closed, it may still be too dark.

A good way to gauge the quality of light is to watch how a violet grows. If the leaf stems (petioles) become elongated so that the overall look of the plant is spidery, or if leaves are growing stubbornly upward, it is probably not getting adequate light. If leaves are growing tightly and perhaps even growing down in a pot-hugging fashion, or the green color of the leaves is bleaching to a much lighter color,

there is probably too much light. When leaves grow in neat flat rows, the light is almost certainly perfect.

A side-effect of light is heat, and heat is hard on violets and may spoil violet flowers. As the perfect brightness is found, the ideal temperatures must be maintained. Avoid windows that are most brightly lit during the hottest part of the day. If temperatures go above eighty degrees (Fahrenheit) tiny buds may be damaged. Open flowers also tend to age much more quickly in heat than in cool temperatures.

EVEN WATER

Another foundation for good blooming is even soil moisture. Violets that are too wet are vulnerable to fungus rot...they may flower for awhile in this wet stage, but ultimately they will die as the rot destroys roots first and then the main stem.

Letting violets dry out significantly between watering reduces the chance of rot, but it also deprives open flowers of the needed moisture that would allow blossoms to last for several weeks. Furthermore, tiny buds will dry off, just as they do in heat, when a violet plant becomes dehydrated.

Keeping the soil evenly moist but never soggy is ideal. This can be accomplished in several ways. One method preferred by many top growers is to use a very light soil mix (to avoid too much water absorption) in combination with a constant water method such as wicking or capillary matting.

If you prefer to water once a week, be sure that enough water is applied that water runs through the pot. Allow the plant to stand in water, but only for thirty minutes or so.

After that, drain off the excess to prevent over saturation. This advice is based on the use of plastic pots. If you prefer porous clay pots, it is necessary to water more often.

QUALITY SOIL MIX

Loose soil that prevents too much water absorption has another marvelous benefit...it gives tiny roots plenty of room to develop in the small air pockets. The more root development below, the more flowers up above!

In nature, African violet species grew with their roots in leafy mulch. Heavy soils were never natural to these delicate plants. Plants that thrive in heavy soils tend to have tap roots, whereas violets are entirely fibrous-rooted. These fine roots cease to grow and extend themselves when the soil is too dense, resulting in sickly overall growth patterns. Even mildly heavy soils may cause most of the root development to be around the outside of the root ball in the minuscule air-space between the pot and the soil.

What makes a good violet potting mix? Check with other good growers in your area, because soil supplies and the quality of water can affect your choice. A traditional mix which has worked well for growers for a number of years is the 1 - 1 - 1 mix: one part peat, one part vermiculite, and one part perlite. Many alternative soil components have been developed in recent years and some are proving to be excellent as well. Good soil should have outstanding water absorption ability and a loose texture. It should also have a fairly neutral pH.

FERTILIZER

Nutrients are very important if flowers are going to develop with greater frequency. Most researchers point to phosphorus as the key nutrient for improved blooming (it also improves root development), although nitrogen plays a key role as well. There are a number of fertilizers on the market which will have a beneficial result when used correctly. This result will be especially noticeable if no fertilizer was being used for a period of time.

Since violets are sensitive to fertilizer salts, and because they tend to grow at a steady rate, it is best to provide a mild solution of fertilizer with every watering (or constantly in a wicking or matting system). For most dry fertilizers, this solution would be one-fourth to one-eighth teaspoon per gallon of water. Liquid fertilizers may vary in concentration, so users should follow package directions closely.

Overfertilizing can provide magnificent results in flowering, but don't expect the results to last. That same over fertilizing might damage leaves and roots and ultimately may cause violets to die. We've heard stories of exhibitors who "bloom-boosted" their show plants so much that their plants ended up with huge heads of flowers but terribly burned foliage. Since these plants are long-term companions, we don't think it's wise to endanger them to such an extent, not

even for more flowers. If you suspect that you may have overfertilized, leach the soil thoroughly to avoid any further damage.

TIGHT POTS

A tried and true trick to improve flowering of African violets is to keep them in pots that are a little snug. Ideally the pot should be about one-third of the leaf diameter. Doing so will match the pot to the size of the root structure, allowing enough room for the roots to develop but not providing excess water-logged soil around the periphery of the roots.

Interestingly, flowers will tend to develop more quickly if the pot is even a bit smaller than the ideal. We have noticed that standard African violets (ones that will grow to a diameter of twelve to fifteen inches) will bloom for the first time a month or so sooner if left in three-inch pots, rather than being potted up to four inch pots too soon.

Why is this so? It may be nature's reaction to a threat. Whenever the survival of the species is in doubt, nature responds by shifting into a reproductive mode. A too-small pot may be interpreted as a lack of space for future growth. One of the reproductive methods used by nature to guarantee the survival of African violets is to bloom, and thus to set seed.

STRESS

Along those same lines, mild stress often brings on a flowering cycle in African violets. We have observed that plants that have stalled and not bloomed for many months will oftentimes begin setting buds after having their roots massaged or shaken. Squeezing the sides of a plastic pot can be enough to do it. Knocking a plant off the shelf might do it (if the plant isn't too damaged). Repotting can have a similar effect.

We've also observed that violets that are not blooming can be "forced" to bloom by giving them an uninterrupted round-the-clock exposure to bright light for several days. The flowering is a reaction both to stress and to light. This method should not be used continually however. Over-exposure to light can cause other problems, especially for foliage.

Top show growers have discovered another sort of stress that brings superb results in the number of flowers. These growers disbud their violets, removing all forming buds before they become open flowers. When this is done over a period of months, an African violet becomes extremely anxious to come into full bloom. One can imagine little personalities inside the plants panicking that they'll never be allowed to flower and they'll most certainly die because of this rude treatment. When this is well-timed, a good grower can estimate accurately when disbudding should stop so that the maximum number of open flowers will be present for competition in a show.

Is this the perfect way to grow violets? It is a great way to demonstrate a violet's ability to bloom (and to win a show), but it isn't a perfect situation for the plant. The stress may cause other changes in growth that aren't as desirable in the long run.

TALKING?

We don't think talking makes much difference. One phrase might help however: "Bloom or you are going into the trash!" If you want to keep your violet collection in bloom, eliminate anything that doesn't cooperate. Your

friends will never know that you had some violets that just never performed. If this sounds hard-hearted, remember that there are some varieties that are reluctant bloomers, especially in certain climates. It is better to avoid the frustration of growing those difficult plants so that you may enjoy the violets that are more cooperative for you.

THE SECRET IS OUT OF THE BAG

Now you know the secret of getting your violets to bloom. Grow them very well and then when they least expect it, do something stressful. What a hobby!



Affiliate Update

by Bev Promersberger
Affiliate Committee
17415 Charter Pines Drive
Monument, CO 80132
<clubs@avsa.org>

A current list of affiliates was published in the last (September) issue of the African Violet magazine. Those affiliates have chosen to join and work with AVSA to provide a convenient association for those interested in African violets and to stimulate interest and education in propagation and culture of African violets. If this is your first issue as a new member of AVSA and you would like to find out if there is an affiliate near you, you can check out the AVSA web site at AVSA.org/affiliates or you can write or e-mail me.

Congratulations and welcome to our newest affiliates:

East Tennessee African Violet Society
President - Mary Ann Lang
1512 Scottsdale Drive
Knoxville, TN 37840

Heart of Florida
President - Russell L. Martin
12741 Lower River Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32828

Merriam Park Bloomers
President - Jane Donaho
1533 Grantham Street
Saint Paul, MN 55108

Palmetto African Violet Society
President - Trudi Christensen
200 Lands End Blvd, Apt 1015
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

If you have not found an affiliate in your area, maybe you would like to be a part of one of the following groups that are in the process of getting organized.

Flint, MI and surrounding area
Contact: Wilson Cronk
201 North Elms Road
Flushing, MI 48433-1829
810-487-1112 or
E-mail <cronk@tir.com>

Westport, SD
Contact: Nan Whatley
38648 123rd Street
Westport, SD 57481
605-225-0486

Coastal Mississippi
Pat Shambra
7887 Hilo Way
Diamondhead, MI 39525
228-255-2855

Naperville/Downers Grove, IL
Contact: Dixie Williams
3211 White Eagle Drive
Naperville, IL 60564
630-904-1698 or
E-mail <dixw@aol.com>
or
Andrea Worrell
619 Franklin Street
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-515-1151

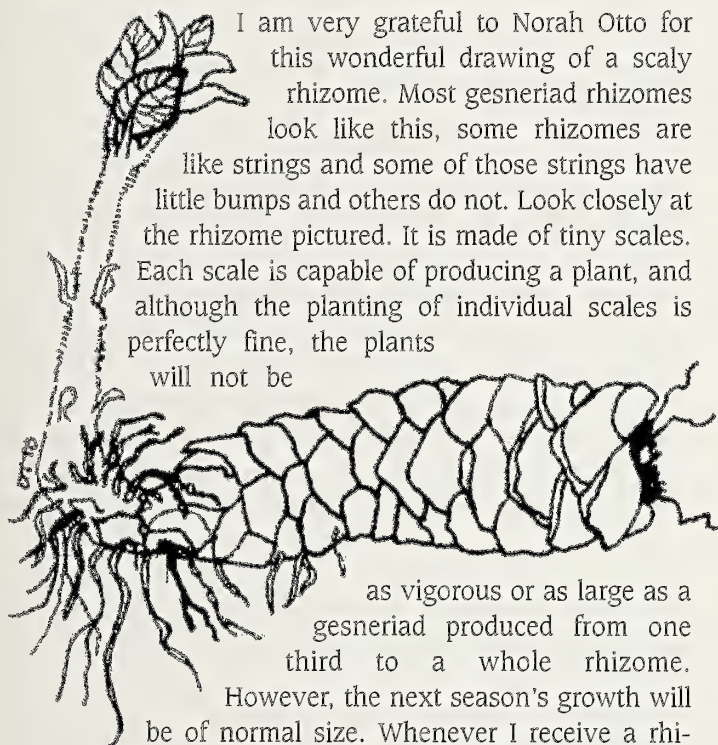
If you are in the process of organizing a club and would like to have your meeting and contact information printed in the next listing (March), please send me the information.

Still haven't found a group near you? I have had several people contact me because they are interested in a club in their area. Maybe there is someone else in your area and we can introduce you to each other. If there is not another contact in your area, there is need for a club and maybe you are just the one to start it. Please request the packet of material that is available to you to start a new club or study group. The packet is a basic guide to help you gather interested growers together, find a meeting place, select the time and day and other information to get you started. You can request this packet by writing or e-mailing me at the addresses listed at the beginning of this column.

Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net



I am very grateful to Norah Otto for this wonderful drawing of a scaly rhizome. Most gesneriad rhizomes look like this, some rhizomes are like strings and some of those strings have little bumps and others do not. Look closely at the rhizome pictured. It is made of tiny scales. Each scale is capable of producing a plant, and although the planting of individual scales is perfectly fine, the plants will not be

as vigorous or as large as a gesneriad produced from one third to a whole rhizome.

However, the next season's growth will be of normal size. Whenever I receive a rhizome, I break it into halves or thirds. I do this just in case a piece begins to rot, and I don't want to lose the entire rhizome.

Gesneriads which produce rhizomes include: *Achimenes*, *Eucodonia*, *Smithiantha*, *Gloxinia*, *Diastema*, *Niphaea*, *Pearcea*, *Phinaea*, and *Kohleria*.

Rhizomes begin to sprout anywhere from February to April. I plant them 1/2" to 1" deep in a hard-packed, light soil mix. Packing it hard helps support the stems. I plant one rhizome per inch of pot size. Therefore, I put 4 rhizomes in a 4" pot. The first two months of sprouting are critical. The plant must NEVER dry out or it will go dormant or die. From the above mentioned gesneriad list, I pinch *Achimenes* and gloxinias to make them bushy and compact. I wait until the plant has 4 leaf nodes, then take the tip growth, which is the top 2 leaf nodes, and put it

back into the pot. It will root easily and the remaining stems will produce one or two branches. I pinch the plants at least twice.

Rhizomatous gesneriads usually require bright light to prevent leggy plants. I grow mine on a plant stand with a double set of shop lights. In addition, they need a consistent feeding of 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water. I've never given bloom-boosting fertilizer. I did notice that when I cut off the main flower stem of a *Smithiantha* before it had a chance to bloom, the plant suddenly produced 12 blossom shoots on the other branches!

It is perfectly acceptable to stake any gesneriad for show, just make sure it's reasonably inconspicuous. Rhizomatous plants are difficult to transport to a show because they are so top heavy with blossoms that staking is almost mandatory.

Most rhizomatous plants go dormant for about 4 to 5 months. I wait until the tops look scraggly then cut off all the plant material above the soil. Now I have 2 options for storage. I can put the whole pot in a baggie until I see sprouting in the spring, or I can dig out all the rhizomes in the soil. My preference is to go digging! I gather all the rhizomes and place them in a sealed plastic bag with a barely moist 50/50 mix of perlite and vermiculite. If the mix is bone dry, I might lose the rhizomes.

Don't be surprised to see rhizomes forming above the soil line in leaf axils. That is fairly common and those rhizomes are perfectly fine for planting.

Many rhizomatous gesneriads are excellent material for entering in Foliage Only classes. Many are fuzzy with red-backed leaves. Because most of us participate in spring shows, the rhizomatous gesneriads are no where near ready to enter.

I recommend that those of you who grow rhizomatous gesneriads bring them to your club and distribute them in a "potting party" in February or March.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

For those who show violets, the leaves or foliage are a very important character to consider. Plants with great flowers but poor foliage will never make good show plants. The list given below may help new hybridizers in planning the genetic inheritance of this important show trait.

Dominant Trait

Girl Foliage
Ruffled Foliage
Holly Foliage
Plain Foliage
Bustled Foliage
Longifolia Shape
Red Backing

Recessive Trait

Plain or Boy Foliage
Plain Foliage
Plain Foliage
Spooned Foliage
Plain Foliage
Ovate Shape
Green or Silver Backing

Q: Since girl foliage is a genetic dominant, would I get more girl foliage offspring by crossing two girl foliage parents together than crossing a girl foliage plant with a boy foliage plant?

A: Yes, a cross of two girl foliage plants should give about 75% girl foliage offspring whereas a cross of girl foliage with boy foliage should only give around 50% girl foliage offspring. However, the first cross would also give plants that are double dominant (homozygous) for girl foliage. These plants will usually have very unmanageable foliage and will be unlikely to have any show potential. Therefore, the best show plants will be those with only a single dose of girl foliage trait which will be about 50% of the offspring in either cross.

Q: Can girl foliage be combined with variegated foliage or trailing growth habit?

A: Yes, hybridizers have developed girl foliage in both variegated plants and trailers. Check with the Master Variety List for the names of these cultivars.

Q: What traits should I look for in the foliage when hybridizing for show plants?

A: I'm glad you are considering the foliage in planning your cross. Since show plants with girl, ruffled or holly foliage are difficult to grow to perfection, you might avoid these traits and stay with parents who show plain foliage. Since the foliage of a show plant should overlap and produce rows without gaps, stay away from parents with longifolia foliage. Choose parents that have leaves that are wider than long, especially in the middle of the leaf. This should give a high probability of offspring with overlapping leaves without gaps. If the foliage of both parents has good show potential, then they should produce offspring with similar good potential.

Q: Is it more important to consider the foliage of the seed parent or the pollen parent when making a cross?

A: Except for some types of leaf variegation, the inheritance of the leaf characteristics appears to be controlled equally by both parents. If the foliage of both the seed and pollen parent are good, then the offspring should have the potential for good foliage too. The "horse-breeding" attitude of "breeding the best with the best, then hoping for the best" works well in this situation.

Q: Is there any visible difference in plants that carry two dosages of the red-backed leaf factor when compared to those with only a single dose?

A: In some cases, there may be a more intense coloration of the red backing in the plants with the double dose (homozygous dominant) when compared to those with a single dose (heterozygous). However, the intensity of the

(In Search of New Violets continued on bottom of page 11)

NO FINER GIFT

(An African violet membership subscription)

Dear AVSA Members,

It is a great concern to me that our society seems to be dwindling in size and this is certainly puzzling. African violets continue to grow in popularity at an amazing rate, sales of violets by large commercial growers continue steadily upward. Perhaps we are not meeting the challenge of our society as we once did. Times and circumstances have changed and former methods of increasing our membership are no longer effective. Thus we anxiously look forward to our Web site and Internet to give us much needed public exposure. Here at our greenhouses we find there is a great need in our immediate area for violets used as centerpieces. Violets in decorated baskets, pottery and glass arranged in an artistic manner are a big part of our sales. Artistically trimmed violets for weddings, parties, and special occasions are in vogue.

Membership is everyone's business; let us pause for a minute and reflect on what we have gained in a society such as ours. Knowledge and experience that will enrich your life, experiments we have indulged in, enabling us to find better and more efficient ways of propagating, scientific research, growing and pest controls to produce more floriferous plants. There has been friendly competition, in which we have all participated and precious friendships made with individuals we have met through growing African violets. I continue to urge all African violet clubs and affiliates who participate in fall and spring shows, to have available AVSA subscription blanks for public distribution. This is a great opportunity to promote our society to a captive audience. Also I wish to remind our members, who lecture or conduct demonstrations, to have these subscription blanks available. I find customers at the greenhouses are very receptive to these, and we also include them in every order.

We recognize that African violets are versatile; they have



*Membership
Makes a
Great Gift!*

no language barrier. Let us emulate a single African violet blossom; fashioned on its own pedicel it blooms but briefly, then it must expire. Still in its short span of life, embraced in harmony with other blossoms its exquisite beauty can bring a smile to the saddest face, joy to a child, hope to the depressed, faith to the sick, comfort to the burdened, glory to God's altar and nourishment to the soul. As we reflect these thoughts may it be an accolade to a life well spent. Our African violets are a challenge and inspiration for a better life.

In anticipation of the holiday season may I suggest you consider gift memberships to AVSA for your many friends and relatives. An *African Violet* subscription is an appropriate, thoughtful gift that will last a year. This is the season to bring joy into the lives of those we love. There is no easier way to Christmas shop than to send in a gift subscription of our interesting magazine that features six colorful issues containing excellent articles on growing, columnists that bring us vivid knowledge of timely topics, and advertisers that bring us the latest cultivars and violet accessories that are difficult to locate elsewhere. Send a gift subscription to our office today. Help us fulfill our mission statement, "To stimulate a widespread interest in the propagation and culture of African violets everywhere." Let your holiday gift be one that shall be remembered long after the Christmas decorations are stored for another year. Help boost our membership into the 21st century; we need the constant support of every member for continued success.

ANNE TINARI, MEMBERSHIP & PROMOTION CHAIRMAN



(In Search of New Violets continued from page 10)

coloration is also influenced by the environment and growing conditions. Plants grown in high light or strong fertilizers often develop more intense red-backing coloration than the same cultivars grown under different conditions. Using the intensity of the coloration may give you a clue as to the plant's genetic makeup or genotype (homozygous or heterozygous), but the outcome of a cross of this plant with a homozygous recessive (green or silver-backed leaf) will be needed to verify the genotype. If the cross gives 100% red-

backed offspring, then the red-backed parent was homozygous. If a mixture of green and red-backed offspring are produced (about 50% of each type), then the parent was heterozygous. This information could be added to your data on the parent for helping to plan future crosses.

If you want the foliage of the offspring to be as "dark" as possible, plan crosses to produce homozygous red-backed plants. The intense red backing will darken the overall color of the foliage to either compliment or contrast with the flower color.

Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

READERS WRITE

Today's reader is Norah Otto from Nederland, Colorado. She offers a lot of interesting information both on African violet cultivars and on "growing psychology." First, Norah writes her favorite small ones are 'Precious Pink', 'Wee Be' and 'Spring Peach', which are all renowned Pittman hybrids. She also likes 'Ness' Mini Sota', 'Irish Flirt' and 'Cupid's Kiss'. She says, "Since I grow the small ones only for show, I have high standards (not to be confused with good growing practices) . . ." While several of these selections are widely grown, there is one, however, I'd like to discuss. 'Ness' Mini Sota' is a chimera with perfectly forming medium green foliage that overlaps beautifully and stays in size, and sports white blooms and a rosy fuschia stripe in the middle of each petal. Personally, I don't think enough good things can be said about it. It grows well in many areas of the country and as it is an older cultivar, I hope it continues to be propagated and grown by many individuals.

Norah adds an older cultivar to her list which she grows for fun. It is 'Pink Fly', which she claims shapes up surprisingly well. 'Pink Fly' is a delightful, very different violet that is successfully grown in different regions of the country. (Ardath Miller of St. Louis also does very well with this cultivar). It was hybridized by the renowned Jimmy Dates, and has bright, medium pink wasp blooms with intriguing dark, hirsute (very hairy) leaves. It also deserves wide recognition! Switching from the old to the new, Norah has also acquired a new cultivar from Lyons Greenhouses of which she approves. According to Norah, "Little Polar Bear" is like a small version of 'Satin n' Lace' but more floriferous and easier to grow." I don't know how many of you grew 'Satin n' Lace', but it was always a favorite chimera of mine. To have something similar available as a small one is very exciting indeed!

Finally, regarding psychology, Norah concluded her letter by saying the more time she has spent with her plant collec-

tion, the better they look. Her hectic lifestyle "was interfering with their nurturing." I talked with several very good growers at convention in Sacramento who stated they did not have enough time to work with their violets, hence they had no, or less than great, entries in the convention show. I cannot emphasize enough, if you want to do well with your violets, you must give them time. Fertilizer, water and light are simply not enough. Violets are very much like children. They'll grow no matter what, but they thrive and flourish when given utmost attention!

CULTIVARS TO LOOK FORWARD TO . . .

I had the distinct pleasure of traveling to Denver, Colorado this spring to speak to the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council. I don't grow many violets for sale, and was asked to bring some to share with members. Dr. Ralph (Rob) Robinson was good enough to provide me with some of his hybrids, one of which was 'Rob's Gizmo', a simple plant with dark green, pointed leaves, and lovely star-shaped, glittery pink blooms. Please understand, these plants had been shipped from New York state, then traveled by van from Kansas City to Denver and back again (more than 20 total hours of driving). By the time I returned to Kansas City, the blooms on all plants had deteriorated except one: 'Rob's Gizmo'. The blooms were as fresh and as beautiful as the day I left. So for substance, for long-lasting blooms, and for show try growing this stalwart new cultivar!

Another hybridizer's plants are coming into their own: Rahim Wilson's Orchard series. These are extremely good forming, heavy blooming varieties that hold their size very well. The most widely grown introduction is, 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet', a miniature with light pink double blooms held in masses above medium green pointed foliage. Don't underestimate this simplistic description because this plant is fantastic! At the St. Louis Metropolitan African Violet Council

show this spring, the top award-winning miniatures were of this cultivar, and the judges had a terrible time trying to select the best one! 'Orchard's Night Light' has very dark green foliage with striking blush/white star blooms. It is a semi-miniature and is new to my collection, but so far it looks to be a winner! Yet a third is 'Orchard's Purple Haze'. This plant's two-tone lavender/purple/white double blooms are as large as they are outstanding! The leaves are medium green and look as though they might have a tendency to grow a little large. Also, the blooms are not as abundant as on the previous two described, but if you like a beautiful bloom, this one's for you!

YOU SAY "TO-MAH-TO", I SAY "TO-MAY-TO"

Dr. Jeff Smith's article ("Concerning Foliar Feeding African Violets," 51 African Violet Magazine, 2, March/April 1998, p. 26) on foliar feeding is somewhat controversial. It reminds me of the great perlite debate: should a layer of perlite be placed in the bottom of pots? Also, of the great Gro-Lux debate: do plants really bloom better with Gro-Lux versus cool-white bulbs? And then there's the great dark shelf versus light shelf debate, the Superthrive debate, and let's not forget the great moon sign debate! Wicking versus matting, urea versus ammoniacal nitrogen, 10 versus 12 hours, the list goes on and on . . .

Dr. Smith's research has led us to question a practice that is sworn by many outstanding growers as a key factor to their growing success*, which returns to the question regarding the "psychology" of growing: how many of our practices do our plants little good, but serve to boost our psyche and morale instead? Simply put, because we want to believe our plants are growing better we think they are growing better. We must leave the answers to the realm of science, which is unfortunate because of the nature of scientific study. Controls, proof, experimentation, valid conclusions versus skepticism sometimes result in even greater confusion, which leads to the same conclusion with which I ended my September column. We are our own judge and jury. We are the triers of fact. Our growing environments are our courtrooms, our results our evidence. Simply put: do what works best for you!

NEXT TIME

Our January issue will be general culture tips for growing the small ones. I know perennial AVSA growers have heard

this information time and time again, but it needs to be repeated for the benefit of our newer members. I'd also like to ask members to write me concerning their summer care of violets. It seems many of us have trouble keeping our violets in top form during the summer months, so what are your recommendations for getting your violets through the summer? Take care!

Season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year!

*"Foliar Feeding of African Violets, Controversy or Serendipity," part 1, Emory E. Leland, 29 AVM 2, March 1976, p. 46. (Provides a brief historical perspective on foliar feeding of plants in general, discusses uses of foliar feeding, fertilizer firms recommendations, and African violet grower's recommendations.)

"Foliar Feeding of African Violets, Controversy or Serendipity," part 2, Emory E. Leland, 29 AVM 3, June 1976, p. 41. (A review of foliar feeding of African violets, guidelines, and bibliography.)

"Foliar Feeding of African Violets," Marie Burns, 39 AVM 3, May 1986, p. 35. "The Best in Show Experience," Marie Burns, 40 AVM 4, July/August 1987, p. 52, at 54.

"On Foliar Feeding," Irene Fredette, 42 AVM 6, November/December 1989, p. 49.

"Big and Beautiful: How to Grow HUGE African Violets," Beginners Column, Kent and Joyce Stork, 49 AVM 6, January/February 1996, p. 6, at 7.

"Foliar Feeding," in Growing to Show, Pauline Bartholomew, AV Enterprises Press, Oxnard, California, 1996, p. 52 ("Except as a growth and blossom booster before show, African violets do not need a steady diet of foliar feeding. The extra nutrients create an excess that can cause leaf and crown burn, tight centers, and loss of variegation.")

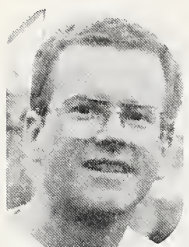
"Thinking Small," guest columnist Darryl Hoover, 50 AVM 2, March/April 1997, p. 14, at 15.

"Growing for the Gold," Rita Hilton, 51 AVM 1, January/February 1998, p. 32. (note: "Foliar feeding is not for me because once you start doing it, you have to keep it up, or have smaller leaves that tell exactly when the plants quit getting their extra feedings." p. 33)

"Growing Large Show Plants," Marie Burns, 51 AVM 3, May/June 1998, p. 53, at 54.

1-800-770-AVSA

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

As a personal note, almost all of us have had a period of time when our violets, because of circumstances beyond our control, were sadly neglected. Recovering our interest in the face of an overwhelming task can be too much for some fanciers and probably contributes to the loss of some of our members. Giving a hand to someone who has suffered a loss of the time they were able to lavish on violets can be a blessing - even if it's only moral support by way of the phone. Luckily, I have a large circle of fellow growers to talk with, keeping my interest level high. While I was doing very well after surgery, a fall caused a different situation, causing back twinges when working on the violets for even a few minutes. I bring this up in an effort to assist anyone who feels that regrouping with a large collection of violets is impossible. If a great deal of time has passed since a working routine was in place, you might try what I'm doing at this point. Take one stand at a time, repot as many plants each day as plausible, clean the trays, and start a regular routine on the one stand. Then take on the next stand (as feasible) and then the next, etc., and even the greenhouse (if you happen to have one) if you and the plants are renewing your camaraderie. Face the facts of life that: *you can't do it all at once*. The primary thing is keeping a positive outlook that it will all be done in time. Life goes on and with a little watering from your helper the plants will survive (they may not look too well, but they will survive).

QUESTION: *I gave a few violets to someone who already had a few and when I asked about the fertilizer she was using, she informed me she never used any fertilizer, she just dumped her coffee grounds on her plants. She felt this promoted continuous bloom, and protected against insects and disease. Have you ever heard of this method?*

ANSWER: Many years ago a lot of growers saved both coffee grounds and tea leaves to put around their plants. I was never aware that it was considered a fertilizer but rather a mulch and an acidifier. Since all of my early growing experience (when I saw this type of practice) was in southern California where most of us have alkaline soils and water, it would make sense to employ an acid product to try to com-



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

bat the damage of an over alkaline soil. Since the writer is from the East Coast, I'm assuming this was a general practice among many growers. I have no idea where the use of tea leaves and coffee grounds originated. The fact that it was an organic substance which people did not care to waste may have prompted them to use it as a mulch. You can use both coffee and tea in a compost heap if you have one. Another often used fertilizer was manure tea, where you steeped a bag of manure in a 30 gallon drum filled with water (rain water if possible). Since I have never used these methods at any time, these tips would certainly be in question. The growers who hold manure tea in very high esteem (some have incredible results on tropical plants grown outside) tell you it is ready to use when it becomes a given color. These seem to be very hit and miss instructions in my book, however there is no question about the smell! In a time when the availability of over-the-counter preparations were very limited, people improvised in order to produce the best plant they could with a lot of trial and error and homemade brews. Our selection of products for growing is vast and we can make informed decisions as to what will work within the growing area in our homes.

QUESTION: *The crown of one of my miniatures has suddenly begun sprouting suckers, ALL OVER IT! The rest of the plant looks just fine. I've cut these things off and they come right back. It looks like a Christmas tree on top and the rest looks like a nice, healthy African violet. What's going on! I did move it away from my other plants as soon as it started this odd behavior.*

ANSWER: There are a number of miniatures that have strong tendencies to sucker and it is necessary to remove the suckers as soon as you can see one in a leaf axil. I use a double pointed sock knitting needle because of its smooth ends. They are available wherever knitting supplies or crafts are sold. They come in a packet of four, so a few of you could share packages of several different sizes. When dealing with a very small plant the smaller size allows you to work with ease and get into the small areas. Where the plant has already produced many suckers it is probably out of shape;

repotting will get you back to the center portion which will grow into a nicely symmetrical plant if you keep ALL suckers removed.

QUESTION: *Just how clean do my pots have to be when I plant another violet in a recycled pot? How do you clean yours?*

ANSWER: Your pots must be free of any insect eggs, virus or contaminants of any sort. (In other words VERY CLEAN). When re-using a pot I soak it in a solution of warm soap and Clorox water for at least 20 minutes. The pots are then rinsed thoroughly and allowed to air dry overnight. At one time, when plastic pots were not available, it was necessary to use clay pots which absorb water and other materials. It was necessary to soak first in Clorox then in a solution of soap which required many rinses.

QUESTION: *How can I make my foliage appear more shiny?*

ANSWER: Shiny foliage is the result of good consistent care. The leaves must be kept clean and free of dust and debris. The shine is actually related to the shine of clean healthy hair; if it isn't in good condition nothing will make it shine. The plant must have been given proper light, air circulation, humidity, water, fertilizer, turned regularly, had adequate room and not have leaf damage from frequent jostling.

QUESTION: *I put down a leaf and it never produced babies, and has grown to a huge size. Why? What did I do wrong?*

ANSWER: It would be hard to say whether you did anything wrong, as I suspect almost everyone has had the experience of having no babies from a leaf, especially if you obtained the leaf away from home and were unable to put it down immediately. It may have come from an outer row on the plant, or it might have just been damaged in some way

while still on the plant. If your leaves are well rooted you can remove the top 1/3 to prevent the mother leaf from growing and insure the energy is channeled to producing babies. Many growers do this as soon as they know a good root system is established which prevents the leaf from growing as much.

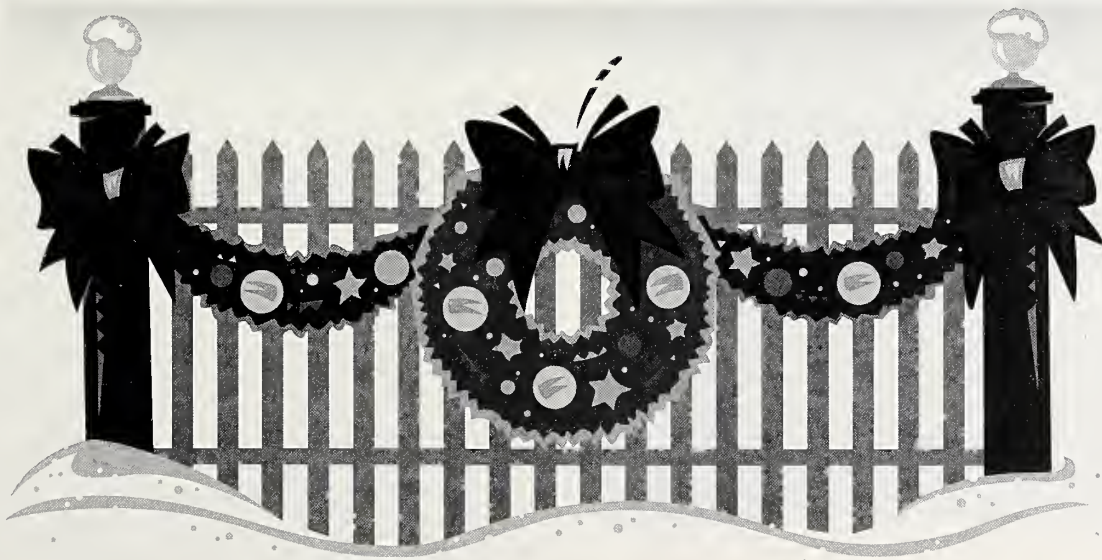
QUESTION: *How can I make it easier to remove my plants when it's time to repot? Should the roots be "tickled" to loosen and remove old potting medium or is it best to disturb them as little as possible?*

ANSWER: When you repot be sure the plant is neither too wet or overly dry. If you squeeze the lower part of the pot in several places the root ball should come out easily, if not you can use the eraser end of a pencil to poke the root ball out. Recently there was a comment that most roots do not need to be loosened and when mold potting* I only remove my perlite layer. When repotting plants which have been shown or are due for attention it is always necessary to remove a portion of the root system as well as the bottom of the central stalk, which more than loosens the roots. *(mold potting - where you fill the next size larger pot with soil using a pot of the same size in which the plant is presently potted, as a mold - fill around the pot and after removing the pot, drop and the plant into the depression).

QUESTION: *One of the leaves I put down in an effort to produce babies has grown and now has somehow produced a flower stem with buds. Should I remove the stem or just let nature take its course?*

ANSWER: You say the leaf has grown, but you don't say whether you also have babies. If you are trying to propagate and have babies coming I'd remove the flower stalk. If you wish to have a conversation piece leave it as is.

Named of columnist replying is in bold print.



THE STORY OF SUPERMAN

by Ethel Champion • Clay, NY

No, not about *that* Superman, the one who wore a cape and made marvelous rescues, but it is about his namesake, an African violet which is also unusual. In the beginning its claim to fame was the fact that it was a large vigorous plant that produced several dozen flowers on each stem. Now, its age is important. 'Superman', at the age of 46 years, has lived much longer than we thought possible.

'Superman' was the result of my first successful cross made some time in 1951. The pollen parent was 'Double Duchess', a double purple and, I believe one of or the first, double African violet. The seed parent was a single blue, probably a sport of 'Blue Boy'. That is a guess but it was similar to 'Blue Boy' except that it was larger and produced many, many more flowers. I was given leaves of this plant which was a sight to behold because of the size of the plant, which was probably multicrowned, and the amount of flowers per stem. I grew plants from my leaves and used one to bear the seeds for the cross.



1954



1997

Seeds were planted in January, 1952, and they grew. I didn't keep records in those days and you are wondering how I remember so exactly. The truth is that I was expecting a Champion baby any day, entered the hospital and Kelly was born on Valentine's Day, 1952. My Mom came to help at the house and I remember asking her to be sure the just-up seedlings did not dry out. Thank heavens that she was a green-thumber, too.

From that cross, 'Superman' was chosen and eventually named for their hero, by the older Champion children. It was a double purple, a large, vigorous plant, but the remarkable part was the amount of flowers per stem, just like the seed parent. Often it produced 30 or more small, one-inch flowers per stem.

At that time, I hoped that this feature would increase the amount of flowers in successive crosses and I would rock the violet world with marvelous things. But it was not meant to be. In crosses that followed I found that if a plant had the large flower count the flowers were always small; large average flowers had a regular flower count.

At first, years ago, 'Superman' was shown and featured here and there but then later, it was relegated to the back of the shelf and like the other 'Superman', suffered some

indignities. Perhaps, because it was my first seedling, I always wanted to keep it, but it was not given good care, had an occasional bud and wilted down several times. Then I knew it had lost its roots and so I invented my version of intensive care. The crown was removed from the pot, cleaned to good flesh and potted in slightly damp, pure vermiculite. Pot and all were placed in a sealed plastic bag. When new growth started in a few weeks it was slowly withdrawn from the greenhouse bag over a period of about two weeks. After it was hardened to regular greenhouse culture it was then repotted in regular soil and grown on.

Now, 'Superman' gets the best of everything; the center light, careful watering and repotting just before needed. Although plants grown from leaves have the original stamina, 'Superman' is no longer as vigorous, as large or as floriferous as it used to be. It is in good health and just to prove it, was entered in our last Syracuse show and won a blue ribbon.

The story of 'Superman' suggests that with just reasonable care and a very large amount of luck a favorite violet can live a very long life. Who knows how long we can keep it growing?



Best Articles of 1997 - Certificates of Appreciation

Jane Rexilius,
Publications Committee Chairman

Each year the AVSA Board of Directors and members of the Publications Committee select the five best articles published the previous year in the African Violet Magazine. These winners are presented with Certificates of Appreciation at the annual AVSA convention, as well as a one year membership to our society for a non-member.

Authors of our Best Articles of 1997, honored at the 1998 AVSA Convention in Sacramento, CA are:

Pat Richards - Kansas

"The Tale of a Plant Who Thought He Could"

Judith Carter - Texas

"Where Did Those Babies Come From?"

Ruth Coulson - NSW, Australia

"Disbudding - What's It All About?"

Dr. Charles Cole - Texas

"What's Happened to My Plants?"

John Beaulieu - Ontario, Canada

"Happy Trails to You"

Congratulations to each of you!

Letter From a Member:

Dear David Buttram and AVM,

The article on pages 20 - 23, in the Sept/Oct 1998 issue, "A Closer Look - A Review", I call "remembering". It was so wonderful that it brought tears to my eyes and a smile to my face. The legacies of all those wonderful hybridizers and growers are the jewels of our hearts, our African violets. The dedication of all these talented people, living and passed on, have given those of us today the challenge to carry on and continue to grow these beauties.

As a relatively new member (6 years) I know I speak for all violet lovers everywhere - Thank you, David.

Thanks for stimulating our dedication to the culture and sharing of ideas and information. One way we can show our appreciation to the hybridizers and growers is by continuing the propagation of their "oldies" and the new ones, our favorites of tomorrow.

Thank you again for the wonderful article, David and the AVM. I'll be waiting for the next one!

In appreciation,
Nancy R. Corse
AVS of Springfield, PA

Root Rot

by Keith Lind • Australia

Root rot is a common problem with African violets. Like many other pests and diseases the effects are not evident until the plant is almost beyond redemption. The first sign of trouble is the drooping of some of the large outer leaves. At first glance it would appear that the plant could be wilting for want of water. However a tug on one of the drooping leaves will reveal the true cause. The leaf will detach from the trunk of the plant and it will be seen that the leaf stem or petiole has rotted away where the petiole joins the trunk or main stem.

A quick check of the rest of the leaves that are drooping will reveal the same symptoms. Then, if the remainder of the plant is rocked from side to side or twisted slightly it will virtually fall out of the potting mix. The trunk will be rotted to just below the crown to which only a few healthy leaves will still be attached. If the rotting portion of the trunk is examined through a magnifying glass tiny larvae of fungus gnats, small transparent worms about 5 - 6mm long, and springtails may be seen working among the decaying matter.

Occasionally, if root rot is detected soon enough the crown may be cleaned and planted similarly to a side shoot (sucker). The rotting tissue should be completely cut away and the exposed end dusted with a fungicide. Success in saving the plant is not always assured and I have personally had only limited success. If the plant is worthy of saving I prefer to take one or several of the inner undamaged leaves and cut the petioles quite short before planting. The reason for cutting the petioles short is to ensure that the infection which destroyed the trunk has not crept up along the petiole.

Root rot is caused by poor cultural practices such as overwatering and the use of unsuitable potting mix, or a combination of both.

Plants should not be allowed to stand in water. This often happens when plants are placed on a saucer and watered from the top. When this method of watering is practiced only sufficient water should be applied so that it just trickles out the drainage holes into the saucer. Any water collected in the saucer should be disposed of. An irregular supply of water, that is, allowing the plant to dry out completely for a period, then flooding it with water, is a sure way to encourage root rot.

A reliable system of watering such as the wick watering system used in conjunction with a good light potting mix should ensure root rot is kept to a minimum.

Reprinted with permission from *"The African Violet"*, publication of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.

**"What do I do with this leaf
when I get home?"**

HOW TO "PLANT" A LEAF

- 1) Recut the stem, diagonally, 1/2" to 1" from the bottom of the leaf (front side) with a sharp knife or razor blade. Plantlets develop from the cut end of the petiole (stem).
- 2) Place the entire leaf in tepid water 2 hours before potting.
- 3) Label a small 2-3" diameter pot with the plant name and date. Small plastic drinking cups with holes punched in the bottom work well.
- 4) Fill the pot with damp soil mix; a mixture of 1/2 peat and 1/2 perlite and/or vermiculite is ideal. You may use any commercial potting mix for African violets. Pack it down firmly, and water with fertilizer solution (1/4 tsp. fertilizer to 1 gallon of water).
- 5) Poke a 1/4" hole in moistened soil. Insert the stem into the soil so that the mix is almost up to the bottom of the leaf and firm the soil around the stem.
- 6) Place potted leaf in a ziplock bag or plastic shoe box with lid; keep humidity high.
- 7) Place under lights or in a window, but don't put in direct sunlight - they will cook!!
- 8) Water using regular fertilizer solution. Do not allow the soil to dry out. Keep moist at all times.
- 9) Leaves may be started directly in zip-lock bags in a small amount of potting soil. The soil should be moist but not wet. These leaves may be left in the bags for a few weeks, but should be put into a small 2" or 2 1/2" pot before the plantlets get crowded.
- 10) If several small plantlets emerge [some leaves will produce from 5 to 15 plantlets], remove the weaker ones and leave two or three on the "mother" leaf until they have four nickel-size leaves. They should then be gently pulled apart and placed in their own 2" pots.
- 11) Plantlets will start to appear in about 6 weeks; some varieties take longer.
- 12) If the "mother" leaf continues to grow, cut the top of the leaf off so the leaf energy goes to the plantlets.

Reprinted from *"The Bloomin Violet"*, publication of the Cedar Valley Violet Club

"And the winners are..."



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

AVS of Greater Montreal, Quebec, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Wisconsin, Optimara Michelangelo, Victorian Ribbons; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Semiminiature: Jupiter's Joy; Best Miniature: Rob's Willy Nilly; Best Trailer: Spunky Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Irene Henry**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mellow Fellow, Youth, Christine Dianne; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dangerous, Von's Small Gift, Irish Flirt; Best Design, **Greta Durand**. Best species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, **Francine Pilon**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Ulysses', **Denyse Chevrefils**. Design Sweepstakes, **Diane Santopietro**.

AVS of Greater NY, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Painted Sunrise, Optimara Barbados, Heavenly Notes; Best in Show/Best Standard: Heavenly Notes; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Rose Ghossn**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boondoggle, Rob's Match Point, Rob's Scooter; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Match Point; Best Design, **Joseph Svitak**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Helen Szymko**.

Gulf African Violet Club, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Squall, Taffeta Petticoats, Granger's Wonderland; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sarsparilla, Rob's Ruff Stuff, Audrey Buchanan; Best in Show/Best Standard: Snow Squall; Best Semiminiature: Audrey Buchanan; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Anna Marie Rinick**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Lillian Scott**. Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Dark Velvet', **Eleanor Duerr**.

Hoosier African Violet Society, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pueblo, Ms. Pretty, Lyon's Northern Star; Best Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Silver Spook; Best in Show/Best Standard: Tomorrow's Starlight; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Trailer: Cherry Blossom Trail, **Steve**

Covolo. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: White Dew, Mini Papa, Teen Sweetheart; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Winter Mint'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Mikita**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst, **Jean Willey**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Andrea Worrell**. Best Design, **Lois Matusak**.

Lakeshore AVS of Toronto, Ontario, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Ontario, Jean-Pierre Croteau, Party Print; Best in Show/Best Standard: Party Print; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Conlin-Lane**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Irish Maiden, Blushing Ivory, Picasso, **Bruce Curcuruto**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Shirley, Irish Flirt, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia kautskyi x hirsuta*, **Betty Tapping**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Shirley, Mini Papa, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Miniature: Aca's Pink Pet, **Tony Hulleman**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Eleanor Elston**.

Mid Polk AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Bud's Melanie, Apache Gem, **Rita Hilton**. 2nd Best AVSA Collection: Picasso, Optimara Stockholm, Powwow, **Lucille Griffin**. Best in Show/Best Miniature: Wee Dear; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boo Hoo; Best Design, **Jean Marie Ross**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Betty Lombardi**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Rita Hilton and Audrey Sears**. Design Sweepstakes, **Shirley Berger**.

Stampede City AVS, Alberta, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Mini Papa, Vagabond, Baby Brad, **Margaret Loundes**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Margaret Gratto**. Best Standard: Rainbow's Quiet Riot; Best Miniature: Ness' Elfin Magic; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Evelyn Tse**. Best Semiminiature: Pride of Columbus, **Maida den Ousten**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* ("And the winners are ..." continued on bottom of page 31)

A CLOSER LOOK



David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64501

ALANNAH'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

This time, in our quest for A Closer Look at our AVSA commercial members, we traveled to the great Pacific northwest. In a two and one-half hour drive northwest of Spokane, we located Danville, Washington and the home of Alannah's African Violets near the Canadian border. Just a short distance away is Grand Forks, British Columbia, where owner Alannah Regan and husband Bud live.

Alannah was born in Holland. As a child, she and her family emigrated to Ontario, where her father worked in the area of horticulture at Guelph University. It was at this university that Alannah studied horticulture, later moving west to British Columbia.

A career as a geriatric nurse was Alannah's desire. A rewarding field, but it can also thrust a person into difficult and unexpected situations. One such incident left Alannah with a painful back injury. After a lot of serious thought, she left nursing.

The next logical move was to go into the business of growing and selling African violets and other plants.

Her husband, Bud, was in the construction business and is now working with plants of all kinds. By far his biggest contribution to the young business was to construct a building, a violet room, and her greenhouses.

Bud described the first building as a 36' x 36' permanent structure that is "super-insulated" and heated by two furnaces. Within this building is a room measuring 18' x 30' that holds between 4,000 - 6,000 African violets. Benches stacked three high are placed around the periphery of the room, giving additional square feet for growing.

The greenhouse is covered with double plastic and is heated by a furnace. Here, from 4,000 to 10,000 plants are found at any given time.

In 1994, Alannah attended the AVSA convention in Denver, her first. That same year she joined AVSA as a



Alannah Regan and friend

commercial member. A very nice, well-produced catalog is available after March 1st, every year. Listed are about 230 African violets, plus recently added gesneriads, from *Achimenes* to *Streptocarpus*.

Alannah explained her new additions, "After building up what I thought was adequate stock, I added the gesneriads. I am still building more stock and will add more next year."

If you like geraniums, including scented, fancy leaf, dwarf, and rosebud varieties, you will probably find what you want among the approximately 400 varieties she carries.

If your tastes are even more exotic, try her tropical plants which include *Tabernaemontana divaricata*, otherwise known as "Butterfly Gardenia." It is described as "a semi-double, evening scented white flower produced year round on dark, glossy, compact growing leaves. An easy to grow container plant that reaches 3' to 4'."

An old cliché in the business world and club work is if you want something done, call on the busiest person you



Alannah's African Violets

know. Maybe that was the reason earlier this year a banker called Alannah with an offer. Seems the bank had foreclosed on a rose-growing nursery and needed someone to take over the business until it could be sold.

Suddenly, Alannah and Bud were in the rose business with four acres of rose bushes, of which 4,000 are mature plants grown as stock plants for taking cuttings. The rose operation also includes two display gardens, potted roses for retail sales, and a mail order business.

Alannah did not know the total number of roses under her care when we talked, but summed up the size of the nursery by saying, "Oh, it's huge."

Her business also includes field-grown medicinal herbs. "They include golden seal, echinacea and blue cohosh, which is another way to make living in the country more viable," said Alannah.

Alannah has no plans to hybridize. It is apparent why, when one sees that time and space are at a premium for this grower, and successful hybridizing requires both. She does have her favorite hybridizers among those who are active. Her favorite is Ruby Cox of Bethany, Missouri. "I wish I could get more of her varieties," she wished out loud. Next are the Soranos of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses in Dolgeville, New York. According to Alannah, "I love their consistency of high quality year after year." And, fellow Canadian, Denis Croteau, who has introduced several outstanding cultivars over the past few years.

Plants and leaves are shipped far and wide as growers learn of Alannah's high-quality plants and service. A recent order was shipped to a grower in Moscow, Russia, after having to go up the bureaucratic ladder to Ottawa to get the necessary documents. The order was shipped on a Monday and arrived in Moscow four days later.

After learning that Alannah has shipped to Japan and Thailand, and had sent a catalog to South Africa, I asked if she had any problems with foreign delivery. Alannah replied, "No, not at all. I am government certified in both countries, so there is no problem at all. It does require the proper documentation, but I have been doing this for a

while. I'm known and it's no problem."

Alannah's many compliments by phone, letter and e-mail attest to her attention to quality leaves and plants shipped in a timely manner. Orders are carefully prepared to arrive safely. Bud told me that "Genola Cox of Violet Express was Alannah's mentor" and had imparted the importance of providing the best to the customer.

Bud also gave me an example of his wife's attention to detail. He said, "She even ships all the orders out in brand new cartons." It is this attention to the little things that is sure to endear Alannah to African violet growers everywhere.

Without doubt, the Internet is the marketing tool of the future. Alannah wanted to get in on the ground floor, so has gone "cyberviolet" by getting her own web site and e-mail address. She freely admitted the difficulties in doing so, but believes the increase in the bottom line (every business person's barometer) from the greatly increased exposure is worth the effort. Check out her ads in this magazine for her web site address and e-mail address.

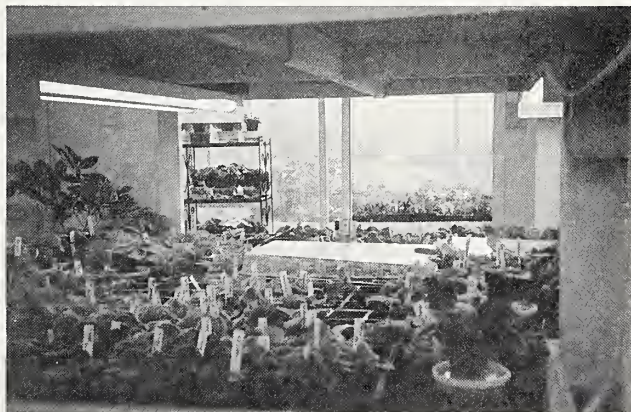
Alannah also has a fax number to help expedite orders, questions and other business transactions. For this businesswoman, it can truly be said that the future is now.

Insects are not a problem for Alannah. Whenever it is necessary to use something, she uses only organic insecticides such as Safer's Insecticidal Soap.

When fertilizing, Alannah uses a regimen of Peters 20-20-20 fertilizer, alternated with 15-30-15, plus a fish product named Neptune's Harvest which, like most marine life products, is very rich in trace elements. This combination, used according to directions, will promote rapid growth, excellent coloring and resistance to pests and diseases.

Most of the growers I talk with use the soil mix developed by Cornell University of 3:2:1 using sphagnum peat moss, vermiculite and perlite, respectively.

To accommodate her growing conditions, Alannah has modified the Cornell formula to 1:1:1, in which she uses one part glacial organic peat, vermiculite and perlite, in equal



Alannah's violet room

portions.

The soil mix has to be modified to suit some of the plants she grows, for instance, geraniums grow best in a slightly heavier soil mix.

The trade name of the organic peat moss Alannah uses is Superior Peat, from glacial bogs that are from 10,000 to 14,000 years old, and is completely composted. To my knowledge it is not available in the U.S.

Neptune's Harvest is available in the States, and has been advertised in the AVM. Call 1-800-259-4769 for information.

Straddling an international border poses no problems for Alannah and Bud. With the majority of the plants grown on the U.S. side, and their home some two or three minutes drive into Canada, travel is quick and easy.

Danville is situated in mountainous country that is covered with evergreen trees. After all, Washington is the Evergreen State. These trees make the area a center for

logging operations. Not far to the south is the Spokane Indian Reservation.

Alannah's philosophy for doing business is simple and to the point: "I try to do a good job and keep my catalog interesting - try something different."

Not only is Alannah interested in horticulture, she loves animals, and the recent purchase of four acres provides space for two llamas, two goats, rabbits, ducks, over twenty-five breeds of chicken, and a cat and dog.

It is now time to leave the scenic northwest and Alannah's African Violets, to continue our visits to AVSA commercial members for A Closer Look. Next time, our trip is to an area in what is arguably one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world. Are we headed toward the Rockies, the Appalachians, or the Great Smoky Mountains? Or is it some lesser known range? Join us to discover our next destination, and meet another fascinating and informative commercial African violet grower.



Remembering *Richard "Dick" Maduro*

by David Buttram

Richard "Dick" Maduro, 73, of Gainesville, Florida died last June.

For several years, Dick, and his wife of forty years, Ann, operated The Violet House in Gainesville. Their familiar full page ad in the African Violet Magazine offered growers a full line of supplies at competitive prices and they often sold at AVSA conventions.

Dick was a paraplegic, having been injured in a motorcycle accident in 1943. But, the way he overcame his disability was an inspiration to all who knew him. Dick was a hard worker, and started his career by being elected City Clerk and Treasurer in a Florida town in 1947, a position he held for 19 years.

His involvement with wheelchair sports led to meeting his future bride, Ann, a physical therapist. Together, they competed as a team. She drove and Dick played. He utilized his tremendous upper body strength by participating in field events such as the shot put, javelin and

discus throw. But his first love was wheelchair basketball, which opened the door to travel to Japan for two years to set up wheelchair sports under the sponsorship of Justin Dart, son of the originator of Tupperware. He later did the same in Italy, and in recognition of his contributions to competitive sports for physically disabled persons, Dick was inducted into the National Wheel Chair Sports Association Hall of Fame in 1984. Ten years later he was inducted into the National Wheel Chair Basketball Hall of Fame.

Those who knew Dick Maduro were blessed by his inner strength, his love of life, and his deep devotion to his wife, Ann.

All of Dick's family, friends and customers were made richer by his life.

(Author's Note) Please read a complete report on the Maduros and the Violet House in the May-June 1992 AVM).

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

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Donations received from June 1 - July 31, 1998

AVS of Greater Tulsa, Tulsa, OK \$50.00
 West County AVC, St. Louis, MO 30.00
 Mrs. Marvel Fox, Bermuda 10.00
 Ms. Sandra Lister, Kodak, TN 5.00
 Pomona Valley AVS, Pomona, CA 25.00
(in memory of Bea Canham)
 Ms. Suzanne P. Altenburg, Houston, TX 10.00
 Ms. Ann Gramstorff, Spring Hill, FL 5.00
 North Star AV Council, Bloomington, MN 15.00
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 Crosstown AVC - Madison, Madison, WI 15.00
 Ms. Susan Fraley, Albany, NY 5.00

Ms. Elizabeth Whitesides, Raleigh, NC 10.00
 Mr. Keith Peregrine, Kingshill, VI 10.00
 E. M. McClelland, Elwood, IN 5.00
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 Ms. Debra Csuy, Winter Springs, FL 10.00
 Mr. Glenn Hodges, Lenexa, KS 7.00
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 Potomac Council of AV Judges, Annandale, VA 25.00
(in memory of Myrtle McKneely)
 First AV Society of Spartanburg, SC 10.00
 Milwaukee AVS 15.00
Total. \$294.00

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Marlene Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue
 Sun City, AZ 85373

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Waukesha Violetees, Waukesha, WI 25.00
 AVS of Greater New York, Flushing, NY 100.00
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 The Pied Pipers AVS, St. Louis, MO 10.00
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 Leslie Cox, Newbury Park, CA 5.00
 Sigrid Marquard, Virreyes Lomas, Mexico 10.00
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 AV Study Club of Houston, Houston, TX 25.00
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 Manikhode Bounpheng, Paris, France 10.00
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 Diane Keller, Austin, TX 3.00
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 Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council 10.00
 AVS of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI 25.00
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 Suburban AV Enthusiasts, Lansing, IL 2000.00
 Milwaukee AVS, Milwaukee, WI 15.00
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 Wichita AV Study Club, Wichita, KS 15.00
 Sandra Lister, Kodak, TN 5.00
 Juanita Freeman, Altadena, CA 2.00
 Ann D. Gramstorff, Spring Hill, FL 5.00
 James Frechette, Myakka City, FL 10.00
 Evelyn E. Stein, Tracy, CA 10.00
 Terri Dahnke, Carmel, IN 10.00
 Walter J. Golba, Jr., South Hadley, MA 5.00
 Mina Miyai Roy, Cold Bay, AK 7.00
 Adah R. Sutton, Columbus, OH 10.00
 Keith Peregrine, Kingshill, VI 10.00
 Elizabeth Whitesides, Raleigh, NC 15.00
 Susan Farley, Albany, NY 15.00
 Debra Csuy, Winter Springs, FL 10.00
 Michael Israel, Louisville, KY 25.00
 Betsy Branson, Flourtown, PA 2.50
 Nobuyuki Takano, Japan 10.00

Items Needed for Second Annual AVSA Convention Auction

It's not too early to begin making plans to donate items for our Second Annual AVSA Convention Auction to be held at the Saturday luncheon in Houston. We'll accept violet-related items: crafts, collectables, nice household items, as well as rare, unusual or exotic plant material including vintage violets, gesneriads and new hybrids.

Please let me know of your intent to donate, providing a description of the item and its approximate value. If you wish, you may send your item directly to my Texas contact, Dale Martens, who will store it and bring it to the auction.

All contributors will be listed in the Souvenir Convention Booklet and will be acknowledged in the AVM. Your contributions are very much appreciated!

Notify:

Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
e-mail <Patter257@aol.com>

Send items to:

Dale Martens
2728 Masters
League City, TX 77573
e-mail <martens@wt.net>

Violet Grower's "Prop Box"

There are so many ways to propagate a leaf that I wouldn't presume to tell you to do it my way. However, it's essential to have a "Prop Box" handy for use at meetings or for a quick fix at home. A plastic shoe box works fine. Supplies can be kept to a bare minimum or can be very complete. The tools we use every day:

- small knife, exacto or razor blades
- brush for cleaning plant
- small spoon for getting the soil up, under and in the pot
- scissors, labels, permanent ink pen
- "sucker plucker"

My "Prop Box" also includes 3x5 cards, alcohol, cotton, wicks, small piece of wood, toothpicks, twisters, small plastic bags, small bag of potting soil, perlite and vermiculite, charcoal, solo cups with drainage holes and sphagnum moss.

Having your supplies on hand allows you to "do it now" rather than putting the job off until later.

Reprinted from *The Violet Thumb*, publication of the AVS of Springfield, PA



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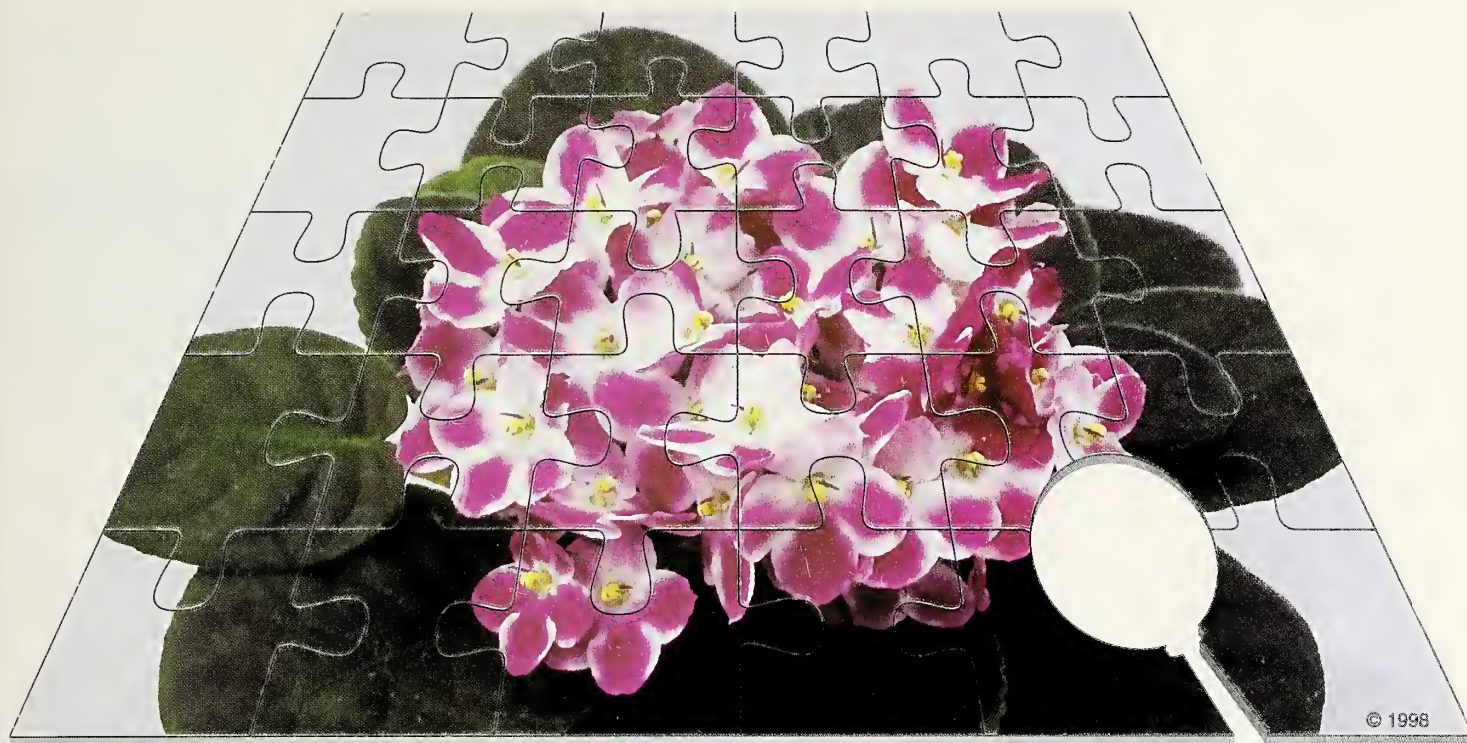
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2. Include in items 10 and 11, in cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of this publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
3. Be sure to furnish all information called for in item 15, regarding circulation. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
4. If the publication had second-class authorization as a general or requester publication, the Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or the first printed issue after October, if the publication is not published during October.
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PS Form 3526, October 1994 (Rev. 9/94)



What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterWell
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive manual for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



"Pardon me - I didn't catch your name"

by Carolyn McAllen
Casper Bloomers, AVSA

There, in the middle of my violets with names written on their pots, blooms an unknown. It's quite pretty with very large medium pink blossoms and a narrow Geneva-type white ruffle on the edges. The leaves are light green with deeply serrated edges.

"Now I've got you," I thought. "I'll just look through my catalogs for a description that matches this plant."

Or so I thought! There's nothing that matches both bloom and foliage. It wouldn't be so bad if this were the only plant marked with a "?" on the pot. But I have a large number with the same question mark!

What happened to its name? That's hard to answer. I tried to be careful when I put the original leaves in containers to root. The only problem is that I have been trying to start leaves in clear plastic bakery containers, which may hold from 6 to 10 leaves.

I tried making a name tag to put to the right of each leaf. Unfortunately, some of the leaves died. Did the tag match the leaf that died or another one? Putting the marker between two leaves of the same name also created problems.

I have tried putting the initials of the plant on the back of the leaf - great until you try to figure out later what "PB" or "SW?" means.

Next, I tried to put the stem through a clear plastic tag with the name on it. Only trouble with that is that the ends of the stems rotted in the rooting mix. The leaves above the plastic remained healthy so I was able to rescue some of them.

Of course, the obvious answer is to root each leaf in a separate container covered with a plastic sandwich bag having the identification written on the outside. Unfortunately, they just take up too much space that way.

Also, at any given time I am rooting plants from a variety of sources. I order from several commercial growers, and

our club president and I swap seedlings as well as leaves. I've solved the seedling problem by immediately labeling them "X1" etc. My own, I keep straight with "M" labels for miniatures and "S" for standards.

At each club meeting our members bring leaves for persons having a birthday that month. Often these are not labeled, so I have plants tagged with "Cathy's" or "Edna's" in the hope that some day they can be identified, though I don't know why since the members are apparently in the same boat I am. (I admit that I've contributed "?" leaves myself).

Then there are sports which do not look like the parent plant, even though I'm sure of my labels. I currently have 2 from 'Maria's Choice'. One is blooming now and the blossoms are identical to the parent plant. The leaves are large and shaped like the original. However, the leaves on both are not variegated as the original.

My first thought was that the two plants grew under Gro-Lux tubes whereas the parent has always been under soft-white tubes. Now I've put the blooming plant beside the parent to see if lighting is the answer.

I currently have 2 white, semidouble plants in bloom. One has very dark foliage and the other has light, serrated leaves. I have ordered only one white plant in the past, and I know for sure that it died. These are probably leaves from club members. Neither of them matches the description of the one that died.

I also have one of my friend's seedlings sitting on top of a reservoir. The pot is marked 'Blue Boy'. Although the seedling is bearing semidouble dark blue blooms, I know that it is not a 'Blue Boy'. The question is, will I remember that a year from now?

Obviously, I'm my own worst enemy. This is one of the few problems this year that can't be blamed on El Nino!

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

Short of sounding like the California Bureau of Tourism, California is the greatest state of all. You, who attended the Convention in Sacramento discovered California in a big way. Now you can taste it too. The Lord saw fit to give us five months of rain and twice as much fruit and vegetables. Did you know that if California were a country we would rank seventh in the WORLD for commodities and that most of it is in my back yard? Blackberries, peaches, tomatoes, and not enough time to get it all done. Well I believe in the lend lease program. I'm giving a lot of it away!

I've received some of my correspondence back this month. BILLIE DORNBUSH if you are out there, Double Blue Boy has been found. Drop me a line, Billie and give me

your new address.

Some really great plants have joined my long master list. They are: Fire 'n' Ice, Interlude, Hot Lips, Blue Carnation, Cherry Pom Pom, Magenta and Crown of Gold, and by Sabastion; Blue Caty, Mauve Eyes, Pale Face and Rosy Frills. Thank you very much, Alice, for rescuing these very aged senior citizens: Fireworks, Fresno Hoedown, G. G. Matchmate, G. G. Drops O' Wine. Lady Mountbatten (Dates), Mary (Maas), Modern Jewel, Ness' Blue Velvet, Strawberry Shortcake, Sunburn, Strawberry Frost, The Parson's Happiness, Swifty Lace, Tye-dyed (Dates), and Zaca-roonie.

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

Alzira
Anna Therese
Blue Warrior
Cat's Meow
Calico Kitten
Coral Radiance
Gay Coquette
Cranger's Fashionaire

Irish Sweeps
Mine Alone
Whisper Blue
Miriam Steel
Optimara Kansas
Optimara Missouri
Optimara New Jersey
Fink Velvet

Pink Philly
Plum Tip
Puerto Vallarta
Silver Token
Snow Flake
Spring Mist
Smokey Emerald
Violets 'n' Gold

My sincere appreciation to you all and remember to always return the postage, asked for or not.



Dean's Ivory Lace

Dean's Ivory Lace

Exhibited by: Carroll Gealy

Hybridized by: C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs

Miniature

Photo Credit: Library Crew



Rebel's Cucumber Kool

1998 Introduction

Grown and Hybridized by:

Ruth Bann

Standard





Saddle Shoes

1998 Introduction

*Grown and Hybridized by:
Kent Stork, Kent's Flowers
Standard*

EYE ON DESIGN

“Rhythm in Design”

by Bob L. Green

In my article, “Eye on Design – The Principles,” in the July/ August 1994 *African Violet Magazine*, page 10, I briefly touched on rhythm in design and stated that “Rhythm is a dominant visual path through a design. It makes a design appear to be alive, rather than at rest. Rhythm suggests motion; it may be achieved by repetition or gradation in a linear direction. Repetition may be achieved by repeating a shape, a color, or direction. Exact repetition is monotonous, so it should be modified, such as pink for a repetition of red or gray for black; or a grouping of small round forms for a repetition of a large, round form. Gradation is a sequence in which the adjoining components are similar or harmonious. It implies gradual change in size, from large to small; in color, from dark to light and dull to bright; in weight, from heavy to light; and in texture, from coarse to fine.”

In this article, I would like to expand my explanation on rhythm in design, because I believe that of all the principles of design, rhythm is the most expressive.

Webster defines “rhythm” as “1. a) flow, movement, procedure, etc. characterized by basically regular recurrence of elements or features, as beat, or accent, in alternation with opposite or different elements or features [the rhythm of speech, dancing, the heartbeat, etc.] b) such recurrence; pattern of flow or movement 2. flow or apparent movement in a work of art, literature, drama, etc. through patterns in the timing, spacing, repetition, accenting, etc. of the elements.”

The *AVSA Handbook* states that rhythm is one of the principles of design (the others being: balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, and scale) which are the rules by which the elements of design (color, form, line, pattern, space, and texture) are manipulated to create beauty, harmony, expression, and order; and specifically defines “rhythm” as “the visual activity or movement through the design” (page 67), “achieved through repetition with variation of components of design through line, space, gradation of color, and illusion of depth” (page 71); and instructs the judge to “look for pleasing line placement, pattern or form” and “deduct points for lack of depth, grace, or variety” (page 67).

Rhythm is most important because it draws the eye from one part of the design to the whole, and then to the

focal point. It is rhythm which creates the required atmosphere, giving either a feeling of grace, peace, and tranquility or one of activity or tension.

Line direction, radiation from a single point, visual tensions, repetitions, transitions, and gradations all work to establish rhythm. Unlike balance, which can be established through the use of twos, rhythm normally needs three or more solids and/or spaces to establish a flow of movement (the exception being a solid line, which moves the eye over its surface and onward).

In both traditional and modern designs, rhythm is established when the eye sees a center of interest and then moves smoothly to the secondary areas of interest. In these types of designs, there should be a gradual linking of the elements to provide an uninterrupted flow upward and outward from the center of interest or focal point. Unity is produced by dominance and dominance is produced by repetition of a line, color, shape, or space which moves the eye smoothly through the design – thus, insuring unity of the whole.

In abstract designs, rhythm is established when the eye starts with one part of the design, stops and backtracks over the whole design, rather than taking a single path from the focal point or center of interest to the secondary areas of interest. Rhythm in abstract designs is achieved by interrelated units. Unity is of a different kind, as the placement of the units in space, their directions and tensions supply movement through the designs.

Line carries rhythm as nothing else can. Rhythm may be gained through a series of lines (and shapes) pointing in the same direction; through a gradated series of curves; through stress on lines rather than plane or points. This is not to say, however, that all lines and shapes must move in the same directions; some contrast is always necessary, if only to emphasize the dominant direction. A designer should use line to lead the eye from one area of interest to the next in a logical sequence. The movement along sweeping, long curves is even and gentle. In an abstract and some modern designs, crossing and changing directional lines speed the eye movement and give vitality and vigor, when used properly, to the design by creating spacial tensions.

Gradation of size from large to medium to small initiates rhythmic movement. The progressive decrease or increase

in the size of space intervals or voids provides rhythmic transition from solidity of mass to surrounding and supporting space by way of tapered line and reduced interest.

Gradual change in color from dark to light, bright to dull, and hue to hue all add variety to movement. Color rhythm used to strengthen line by following the same contours adds emphasis and dominance. A focal point or center of interest that rivets the eye to one spot should be avoided by the designer, and penalized by the judge.

Space can control, activate, or slow down the visual movement through a design. The designer who uses space wisely to establish rhythm (and thus, unity), is to be commended. The shapes of the spaces, as well as the masses, should be interesting and varied. Space movements differ in variety and speed: some rhythms are even and smooth; some rhythms are sharp and staccato; and some rhythms have easy balance, while others have disturbing balance.

Depth rhythm is important in establishing third dimension. The repetition of similarly shaped objects placed diagonally behind each other create an illusion of rhythmic depth. A flat leaf can be given depth by bending or curling it while its companions are used in the natural plane – thus depth and contrast are added and repetition and rhythm are satisfied.

In evaluating a design, a judge should deduct points when too many forms of similar size and importance tend to freeze the rhythm. Likewise, a judge should penalize a design with monotonous regularity of too many evenly spaced voids around the boundary and too many evenly sized and spaced forms. Also, a judge should penalize a

design whose component parts divide the design, or appears to cut the visual picture in half. Unity is of the utmost importance. If a smooth visual path is lacking between the main line and the focal point or center of interest, a judge should penalize the design. Sandwiching of form or color so the eye is prevented from any movement except up or down or sideways should also be penalized by a judge. Also, if the rhythm is confusing, leading the eye in too many directions with none dominant, the design should be penalized.

Rhythm is one of the key ingredients in kinetic designs (mobiles, stables, and stamobiles). The principle of rhythm is more important to this type of design than it is to the static designs. The rhythmic movement is not only physical, but visual. Physical movement is created by air currents and mechanics, whereas visual movement is attained through line direction, gradation, and repetition. The moving components of a kinetic design should revolve freely, smoothly, and gracefully in the air currents, and the eye should be satisfied by finding repeated forms, repeated textures, repeated space shapes, and repeated colors; and the visual movement or rhythm should be expressed by gradation of size from large to smaller, of color from dark to lighter, of bright to muted, and of textures from rough to smoother with satisfactory transitions to carry the eye along.

In closing, I would like to thank Esther Veramae Hamél, whose book, The Fully Revised Encyclopedia of Judging & Exhibiting Floriculture & Flora - Artistry, was used extensively in writing this article. I recommend it to all of you who would like to be more proficient in creating designs and more knowledgeable in judging them.



(“And the winners are ...” continued from page 19)
orbicularis purpurea, **Gabriela Liberty**. Best Gesneriad:
xSmithicodonia ‘Behavin’, **Gertrud Schneider**. Best
Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Winston Goretsky**.

Syracuse AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard
Collection: Satin Dancer, Taffeta Petticoats, Lyon’s Blushing
Bride; Best in Show/Best Standard: Lyon’s Blushing Bride;
Best species: *Saintpaulia magungensis minima*, **Ethel
Champion**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob’s Cloudy
Skies, Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara Little Amethyst;
Best Semiminiature: Rob’s Match Point; Best Miniature:
Optimara Little Crystal; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Donna
Coleman**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt,
Rob’s Shadow Magic, Winnie Woo, **Mary Ryan**. Best
Trailer: Rob’s Boolaroo, **Karen Dupree**. Best Design, **Janet**

Ferguson. Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Ellison and
Ethel Champion**.

Toronto AVS, Ontario, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA
Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia magungensis*, *Saintpaulia
ionantha*, *Saintpaulia confusa*; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi
Collection: Ness’ Cranberry Swirl, Precious Pink, Irish Flirt;
Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob’s Woolloomooloo; Best
Miniature: Aca’s Pink Pet; Best Species: *Saintpaulia magun-
gensis*; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea flaccida*; Horticulture
Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Conlin-Lane**. 2nd Best AVSA
Standard Collection: Aca’s Tornado, Decelles’ Coralia,
Optimara Ontario, **Doris Brownlie**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi
Collection: Sassy Shirley, Precious Pink, Definitely Darryl;
Best Semiminiature: Sassy Shirley, **Betty Tapping**. Best
Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Eleanor Elston**.

Showcase

Rob's Twinkle Blue

*From 2nd Best
Commercial Display Table*

1998 National Show

Grown and Hybridized by:

Ralph Robinson

Rob's Mini-o-lets

Photo Credit:

Library Crew



Ness' Pixie Grin

1998 Introduction

Grown and Hybridized by:

Don Ness, Midland Violets

Miniature



African Violet



Saintpaulia grotei

1998 Supplement Master List of Species and Cultivars

This is the 1998 supplement to the eighth edition of the African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars (AVML, formerly MVL). The supplement includes all cultivars appearing in the 1998 Registration Reports, descriptions of non-registered cultivars provided by hybridizers during that same period, and changes to previous listings. The AVML and its supplements provide a timely, concise, and accurate tool for classifying, judging, and exhibiting African violets.

The new, ninth edition of the AVML will be available in early spring through the Beaumont office. It will contain all

varieties registered through December 31, 1998, all recognized species, and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 through December 1998.

The "universal" IBM and MAC AVML database, and the "FirstClass" version for Windows only, are available on 3.5 inch floppy disks for your computer at \$12.50, and \$5.00 for updates as available. Contact the Beaumont office for current dates and computer details.

Send corrections and/or hybridizer's description of new cultivars to Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgecrest Drive, Colfax, CA 95713.

The 1998 Supplement to the African Violet Master List

Compiled by Lynn Lombard, African Violet Master List Chairman

Supplement to African Violet Magazine Volume 51 No. 6 November/December 1998

† designates change

Aca's Red Ember	..... (8732) 06/29/98	(J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble red sticktite pansy. Variegated medium green and white, plain. Standard
Alice Corinne	..... (8680) 01/20/98	(D. Harrington) Double dark purple pansy/near-black edge. Variegated medium green, cream and pink, spooned, longifolia, quilted, hairy, scalloped. Standard
All Ready Red	..... (8717) 03/16/98	(R. Russell) Single red star/darker eye. Medium green, plain, quilted. Standard
Alliance	..... (8663) 09/27/97	(D. Croteau) Semidouble medium blue star/white and pink fantasy. Variegated green, cream and pink. Standard
Arctic Frost	.....	(S. Sorano) Semidouble white large star/variable blue-marked eye, edge. Medium green. Standard
Aunt Georgia	.....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble rose two-tone pansy. Dark green, plain. Semiminiature
Aunt Irene	.....	(K. Stork) Semidouble-double pink. Medium green, plain. Semiminiature
Blissful Lady	..... (8696) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Single lavender pansy/darker tips. Variegated green and white, plain. Standard
Blue Aura	.....	(S. Sorano) Semidouble blue large frilled star/darker band, thin white edge. Dark green, quilted. Large
Blue Bingo	..... (8697) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Single light blue star/white edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated. Standard
Blue Fuss	..... (8698) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double dark blue star. Dark green, pointed, quilted, glossy, serrated. Standard
Blue Masterpiece	.....	(S. Sorano) Double dark blue star. Variegated dark green, white and variable pink. Standard
Blushing Fantasy	.....	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double medium pink star/hot pink eye, dark blue fantasy. Dark green/red back. Standard
Broadway Star	.....	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble medium pink large star/fuchsia sparkle fantasy, wide darker edge. Dark green. Standard
Bubbling Over	..... (8699) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double dark pink star. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy. Standard
Buckeye Ballerina	..... (8740) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Double lavender-pink frilled/purple fantasy; variable purple edge. Variegated medium green and cream, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy. Standard
Buckeye Calico.	..... (8741) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Semidouble pink pansy/purple fantasy. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, glossy/red back. Large
Buckeye Chatterbox	.....	(P. Hancock) Single medium pink sticktite star. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Buckeye Cherry Confection	.....	(P. Hancock) Single cherry pink sticktite ruffled pansy/raspberry overlay. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Buckeye Cherry Pink	..... (8742) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Semidouble bright mauve-pink ruffled star. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated/red back. Large
Buckeye Cherry Topping.	..... (8743) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Single-semidouble bright pink sticktite pansy/cherry frilled edge. Variegated black-green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. Large

Buckeye Colossal	(P. Hancock) Semidouble peach-pink star/red sparkle edge. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Buckeye Constellation	(P. Hancock) Single light purple sticktite ruffled star/raspberry and purple fantasy, raspberry edge. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Buckeye Cosmic Rays (8744) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Semidouble light purple ruffled star/dark purple and raspberry fantasy; raspberry edge. Variegated medium green, cream and pink, plain, hairy, wavy/red back. Large
Buckeye Country Gal	(P. Hancock) Single fuchsia sticktite ruffled pansy/variable fantasy. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Buckeye Country Lilacs	(P. Hancock) Single lavender two-tone sticktite ruffled pansy. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler (8745) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Semidouble bright pink ruffled pansy/variable raspberry fantasy; raspberry edge. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. Large
Buckeye Cranberry Swirl (8746) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Semidouble light cranberry ruffled star/dark cranberry and purple fantasy; variable raspberry edge. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. Large
Buckeye Crown Jewels	P. Hancock) Single pale raspberry ruffled pansy/darker veins, variable red edge. Variegated medium-dark green, pink and cream, scalloped. Large
Buckeye Curtain Call	(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double cranberry/darker sparkle overlay. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Cardinal	(Volkmann) Double purple-red large star. Medium green, plain. Standard
Carol	(Volkmann) Semidouble dark rose large star. Medium green, plain. Standard
Chain Reaction	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera light pink large star/dark blue stripe, blue fantasy. Medium green, plain. Standard
Cherry Push-up (8700) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double cherry red star. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. Standard
Chopper	(Volkmann) Single white large star. Dark green. Standard
Clowning Around	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble white large star/pink eye, fuchsia sparkle eye, edge. Light-medium green, plain. Standard
Connie Salland (8674) 11/22/97	(R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera rose-pink fluted/white stripe, variable green edge. Dark green, wavy. Standard
Crystal Red	(Volkmann) Semidouble medium red large star. Medium green, plain. Standard
Cynde (8675) 11/22/97	(R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera pink frilled star/lavender stripe. Dark green, ovate, quilted. Standard
Dakota Moonlight	(D. Heath) Single fuchsia sticktite star. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Standard
Dean's Bashful (8685) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Semidouble white ruffled/hot pink rays. Variegated olive green and white, quilted, scalloped. Semiminiature
Dean's Brandywine (8686) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single dark burgundy sticktite pansy. Variegated dark green and white, ovate. Semiminiature
Dean's Faded Rose (8682) 01/28/98	(C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Double wine/old rose shading. Mosaic variegated green, pink and white, plain, heart-shaped. Semiminiature
Dean's Freckles (8687) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single-semidouble pink/blue fantasy. Variegated medium green and white, pointed. Semiminiature
Dean's Lady Bug (8688) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single dark red sticktite pansy. Variegated dark green, pink and white, heart-shaped/red back. Miniature
†Dean's Legacy (7679) 03/03/92	(C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Semidouble pink frilled. Variegated dark green, heart-shaped/red back. Miniature
Dean's Lucienne (8689) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single-semidouble light pink pansy/darker band, white edge. Variegated medium green and white, ovate, glossy. Semiminiature

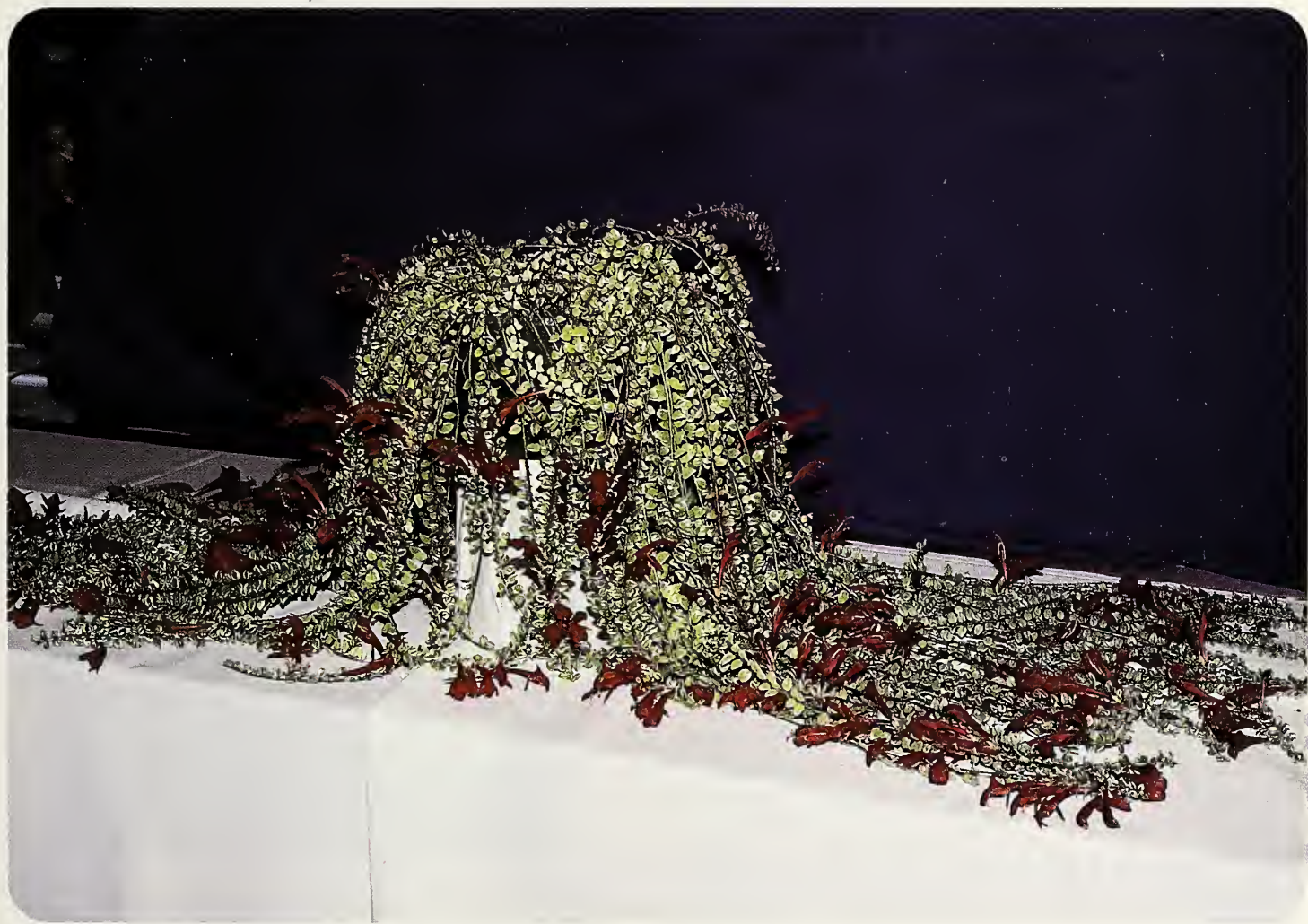
Dean's Peach Blush	(8683) 01/28/98	(C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single pale peach sticktite pansy. Variegated dark green and white, heart-shaped. Semiminiature
Dean's Rosalie	(8690) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Double rose two-tone. Variegated dark green and white, heart-shaped/red back. Miniature
Dean's Ruby	(8691) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single-semidouble fuchsia pansy/darker top petals. Variegated dark green, pink and white, heart-shaped. Semiminiature
Dean's Silver Veil	(8684) 01/28/98	(C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single-semidouble silver-blue lavender pansy/darker veining, overlay. Variegated green, pink and white, ovate. Semiminiature
†Decelles' Defi	(8658) 08/18/97	(Brownlie/Decelles) Semidouble blue-purple pansy/pink fantasy. Variegated medium green and cream, plain. Standard
Designer Print		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble creamy white star/bright pink patches. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Do-Be-Pink	(8701) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Semidouble-double medium pink star. Dark green, pointed, ruffled. Standard
Doctor Sandey	(8676) 11/22/97	(R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera dark purple frilled/white stripe. Dark green, ovate, quilted, scalloped. Large
Dolores' Antoinette	(8714) 03/11/98	(D. Harrington) Semidouble pink, cream and lavender ruffled pansy. Medium green, pebbled, glossy, wavy. Standard
Dora Picard	(8664) 09/27/97	(D. Croteau) Semidouble light pink star/variable raspberry edge. Variegated medium green, cream-pink and tan. Standard
Double Dip		(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pale pink star/blue fantasy. Dark green. Standard
Faded Denim		(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double light blue large wavy star/variable green tips. Medium green. Standard
Fanny Sue	(8733) 06/29/98	(J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble blue two-tone star. Variegated green, pink and white, plain, quilted. Standard
†Fantastic Fantasy	(8576) 01/16/97	(D. Harrington) Single-semidouble pink pansy/purple fantasy; variable darker pink stripe. Medium-dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. Semiminiature
Fantasy Freckles	(8672) 11/18/97	(F. Tinari) Double lavender-pink ruffled large/dark purple fantasy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. Standard
Festive Amethyst		(S. Sorano) Semidouble amethyst/dark purple markings, variable lavender shading. Dark green, quilted. Standard
First Robin	(8667) 10/18/97	(P. Harris) Semidouble pink/red eye; variable red on tips. Dark green, heart-shaped, pointed, serrated/red back. Semiminiature trailer
Floozie		(K. Stork) Semidouble-double vivid pink pansy/thin raspberry sparkle edge. Dark green. Standard
Foolish Pride	(8702) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Single vivid pink star. Dark green, pointed, serrated. Large
Futuriste	(8659) 09/19/97	(Regan/Croteau) Semidouble mauve star/darker veining, raspberry edge. Variegated medium-dark green, cream and pink, quilted. Standard
Geisha Girl		(G. Durand) Single peach two-tone sticktite pansy/darker top petals. Dark green, pointed, quilted. Semiminiature
Glitter Memory	(8718) 03/16/98	(R. Russell) Double fuchsia/orchid overlay, pink-green edge. Dark green, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Glitter Ray's	(8719) 03/16/98	(R. Russell) Semidouble-double rose-pink/raspberry overlay. Medium green, plain, quilted. Standard
Golden Eye		(S. Sorano) Double white star/yellow markings. Variegated dark green, pink and white. Semiminiature
Golden Flash		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white star/yellow streaks, light blue edge. Medium green, wavy. Standard
Golden Fountain		(S. Sorano) Double white large star/bluish-purple eye, yellow blush. Medium green, plain. Standard

Good Morning Pink	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble vivid pink frilled pansy. Dark green, quilted. Standard
Hula Hoop	(S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera light blue pansy/white stripe. Medium green, pointed. Miniature
Icy Sunset	(S. Sorano) Semidouble fuchsia large star/white fluted edge. Dark green, plain/red back. Standard
Irish Touch	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white pansy/bright green edge. Variegated dark green, white and cream. Semiminiature
Jade Of Rose (8703) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double light pink star/green edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. Standard
Jeanette	(Volkman) Semidouble fuchsia-red/white ruffled edge. Dark green. Standard
Jeedle Jay (8677) 11/22/97	(R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera lavender frilled star/white stripe. Variegated medium green and white, plain, quilted, glossy. Standard
Judith Karen (8681) 01/20/98	(D. Harrington) Double dark blue large star/some pink. Variegated medium green and creamy yellow, spooned, heart-shaped, glossy, scalloped. Standard
Just Checking	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble white pansy/pink eye, fuchsia-sparkled eye, edge: some green on top petals. Light-medium green, plain. Standard
Kiss 'n' Tell	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark rose star. Variegated dark green, white, cream and pink. Semiminiature
Kissing Bandit	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark blue large frilled star/dark red-blue shaded edge. Dark green, quilted. Standard
†Lambert Closse (8660) 09/19/97	(Regan/Croteau) Semidouble lavender-red large star. Variegated medium green and cream. Standard
Little Chatterbox	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble dark pink star/dark blue fantasy. Dark green, plain. Semiminiature
Little Polar Bear	(S. Sorano) Double chimera white star/dark blue stripe. Medium green. Semiminiature
Lucien Croteau (8665) 09/27/97	(D. Croteau) Semidouble plum pansy/pink fantasy. Variegated medium green, cream and pink, quilted. Standard
Lying Eyes	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble light pink ruffled star/rose-fuchsia eye, blue fantasy. Dark green, quilted, ruffled/red back. Standard
Lyon's Finger Paints	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white pansy/orchid patches on lower petals, variable on top petals. Medium green, plain. Standard
Lyon's Fireworks	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double medium pink star/fuchsia fantasy, wide fuchsia edge. Dark green. Semiminiature
Lyon's Harvest Moon	(S. Sorano) Double pink and yellow star. Medium green. Standard
Lyon's Nightfall	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark blue large fluted star. Dark green, quilted, ovate/red back. Standard
Lyon's Party Flirt	(S. Sorano) Semidouble pale pink frilled/lavender-blue fantasy. Dark green, plain. Semiminiature
Lyon's Radiance	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera vivid coral/purple stripe, fantasy. Variegated medium-dark green, cream and white/red back. Standard
Marcella	(Volkman) Single rose-red star/white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
Maty (8725) 04/20/98	(D. Harrington) Single red/violet overlay. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, scalloped/red back. Semiminiature
Midnight Frolic	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble plum and purple large frilled star/wide white edge, lavender and light plum tints. Variegated medium green and white, plain. Standard
Miss Santa Cruz (8729) 06/03/98	(C. Cornibe) Semidouble-double fuchsia-pink two-tone frilled/thin white edge, variable darker tips. Variegated green, white and pink. Standard

Moon Goddess	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double creamy-white large star. Medium green, heart-shaped. Standard
Moonless Night	(K. Stork) Double dark violet-blue frilled. Black-green/red back. Standard
Moonlight Magic	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera pink pansy/dark lavender stripe. Variegated medium green, cream and tan. Standard
Motley Crew	(G. Durand) Semidouble bright pink star/white eye, variable markings. Medium green, plain, ovate. Semiminiature
Ms. Gigglebox	(S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera light purple pansy/white stripe. Medium green, ovate, quilted. Semiminiature
Ms. Smartypants	(S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera white pansy/pink stripe, green frilled edge. Medium green, ruffled. Semiminiature
Mystical Love (8720) 03/16/98	(R. Russell) Double rose-pink ruffled star/raspberry overlay. Dark green, plain, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
† Night Vision (8724) 03/23/98	(D. Harrington) Semidouble black-wine large frilled star. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, pebbled, glossy, wavy/red back. Standard
Oceanside	(S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera dark blue frilled pansy/white stripe. Medium green. Standard
Oh So Blue (8704) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double medium blue star. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. Standard
Okie Easter Bunny (8715) 03/11/9	8(J. Cochran) Single pale pink sticktite pansy/wide bright raspberry frilled edge. Medium green, quilted. Standard
† Pastel Parasol (8728) 05/18/98	(J. Swift) Single-semidouble lavender-pink large frilled star/white edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
Peach Sundae	(D. Heath) Single peach-pink sticktite ruffled pansy. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Standard
Phantom	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble dark blue large star. Variegated dark green, cream and variable pink. Standard
† Phobos (8661) 09/19/97	(Regan/Croteau) Semidouble burgundy star/pink fantasy. Medium green, quilted. Large
Phosphorescence (8673) 11/18/97	(F. Tinari) Double lavender/fuchsia sparkle overlay, purple ruffled edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. Standard
Pink Feathers	(S. Sorano) Semidouble medium pink frilled star/darker fantasy. Variegated dark green, pink and tan, serrated. Standard
Pirate's Gold	(S. Sorano) Double white fluted star/lemon-yellow blush. Medium green, quilted, wavy. Standard .
Pixie Peppermint	(S. Sorano) Double chimera white star/red stripe. Variegated medium green and white. Semiminiature
Rainbow Connection	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble light pink large fluted star/light blue fantasy; wide light fuchsia band, darker flecks, edge. Dark green, plain. Standard
Rainy Day Wishes	(S. Sorano) Single lavender-pink sticktite star. Variegated medium green, white, cream and pink. Standard
Ray's Big Wow (8705) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Single dark lavender star. Variegated medium green and white, pointed, quilted, ruffled. Large
Ray's Coral Dawn (8706) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Single-semidouble coral star/darker eye. Dark green, pointed, serrated. Standard
Ray's Royal Crystals (8707) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double plum-blue frilled star. Variegated dark green and white pointed, quilted. Large
† Rebel's Ambrosia (8300) 11/22/95	(R. Bann) Semidouble pink pansy/darker band, thin white frilled edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, scalloped/red back. Large
† Rebel's Centennial Star (8723) 03/18/98	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble dark red large star. Medium green, pointed quilted, serrated/red back. Standard

Rebel's Crested Robin	(8692) 01/31/98	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble bright red pansy/white ruffled edge. Dark green plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Large
Rebel's Night Breezes	(8693) 01/31/98	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble dark blue large star/white ruffled edge. Medium green, spooned, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
†Rebel's Purple Shadows	(8694) 01/31/98	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble orchid-purple two-tone pansy/black-purple edge. Variegated dark green, tan and rose, plain, glossy, ruffled/red back. Large
†Rebel's Splatter Kake	(8695) 01/31/98	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink large fluted star/darker eye, purple fantasy white-green edge. Medium green, spooned, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Large
Red Cherry		(Volkmann) Single red ruffled. Dark green. Standard
Rob's Bamboozle	(8734) 07/25/98	(R. Robinson) Semidouble bright rose-pink pansy. Dark green, ovate glossy/red back. Semiminiature
Rob's Fuzzy Navel	(8735) 07/25/98	(R. Robinson) Double peach-pink star. Dark green, pointed/red back. Semiminiature
Rob's Itty Bitty	(8736) 07/25/98	(R. Robinson) Semidouble bright pink bell. Dark green, pointed/red back. Miniature
Rob's Oopsie Daisy	(8737) 07/25/98	(R. Robinson) Double chimera bright pink pansy/white stripe. Crown variegated medium green and white. Semiminiature
Rob's Outer Orbit	(8738) 07/25/98	(R. Robinson) Semidouble dark blue pansy/bright pink spots, white edge. Variegated dark green and white, quilted/red back. Semiminiature
Rob's Rinky Dink	(8739) 07/25/98	(R. Robinson) Semidouble dark burgundy-red pansy. Dark green, pointed glossy/red back. Miniature
Rose Beauty		(Volkmann) Single dark rose-red star. Medium green. Standard
Royal Rage		(S. Sorano) Single lavender-blue shaded fluted star/darker blue overlay, red-purple band, white edge. Variegated dark green, cream and beige. Standard
Saddle Shoes		(K. Stork) Single white sticktite pansy/violet-blue patches. Medium green plain. Standard
San Mateo	(8730) 06/03/98	(C. Cornibe) Single-semidouble purple two-tone frilled pansy/darker shading at tips, variable darker purple-green edge. Variegated green, white and pink ruffled. Standard
San Mateo Blues	(8731) 06/03/98	(C. Cornibe) Semidouble-double lavender-blue two-tone frilled large/variable white markings, thin white-green and/or purple edge. Variegated green white and pink. Standard
Scenario	(8662) 09/19/97	(Regan/Croteau) Semidouble violet-red/variable purple edge. Variegated medium green, cream and light pink, quilted. Large
Sergeant Pepper		(S. Sorano) Semidouble medium pink frilled pansy/blue fantasy; red sparkle and edge. Variegated medium green and creamy white. Standard
Skeeter	(8716) 03/11/98	(J. Cochran) Single light lavender sticktite pansy/wide dark raspberry frilled edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. Standard
Smitten Kitten		(S. Sorano) Semidouble lavender pansy/large purple eye. Variegated dark green, white and pink, heart-shaped, girl foliage. Miniature
Smooch Me		(K. Stork) Single-semidouble pink/red eye. Dark green, quilted. Standard
Snow Leopard		(S. Sorano) Semidouble white ruffled pansy. Dark green. Semiminiature
Steel Blue	(8708) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double medium blue frilled star. Medium-dark green, pointed serrated. Large
Stephanie Croteau	(8666) 09/27/9	7(D. Croteau) Semidouble dark purple star/dark coral fantasy, white edge. Dark green, quilted. Standard
Steppin' Stone		(S. Sorano) Single white sticktite frilled star/lavender-blue patches. Medium green, wavy. Standard
Strawberry Love	(8721) 03/16/98	(R. Russell) Double white and rose-pink frilled star. Variegated green, white and pink, pointed, quilted, pebbled. Standard

Strawberry Swirl	(8722) 03/16/98	(R. Russell) Double red and white ruffled star. Variegated green, white and pink, pointed, quilted, pebbled. Standard
Sue Hoffmann	(8678) 11/22/97	(R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera dark pink pansy/lavender stripe, darker fantasy. Dark green, plain. Standard
Sunny Skies		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble light blue star/yellow markings. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Susanny	(8679) 11/22/97	(R. Loomis) Single chimera pink frilled star/lavender stripe, fantasy. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, wavy. Standard
Susie		(Volkman) Single dark pink star/white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
The Artist		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pink star/variable blue, purple, red and pink fantasy. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Therese	(8726) 04/25/98	(J. Brownlie) Semidouble pink two-tone pansy. Variegated medium green and white, plain. Standard
Thunder 'n' Lightning		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white star/variable light purple and yellow markings. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Twice Spice	(8709) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Semidouble medium pink frilled star/lavender fantasy. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy. Standard
Ultra Blue Ray's	(8710) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double dark blue ruffled star. Variegated dark green and white pointed, quilted. Large
Velvet Ray's	(8711) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Single cherry red star/white edge. Dark green, pointed quilted/red back. Standard
Velvet Valentine		(S. Sorano) Semidouble dark mauve-red shaded pansy. Dark green, plain. Standard
Victorian Print		(S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera medium pink pansy/purple stripe, lighter fantasy. Medium green, wavy. Standard
Volkman's Holiday		(Volkman) Semidouble red large/white edge. Medium green, plain, round. Standard
Volkman's Jane		(Volkman) Single dark rose/white edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
Volkman's Majestic		(Volkman) Semidouble purple-red ruffled large. Dark green, plain. Standard
Volkman's Twilight Halo		(Volkman) Semidouble orchid star/fuchsia edge. Dark green, quilted, round. Standard
Von's Friend Syl	(8668) 11/08/97	(Y. Lambert) Single-semidouble pale pink pansy/fuchsia frilled edge. Variegated medium green and white, plain, quilted. Standard
Von's Little Lady	(8669) 11/08/97	(Y. Lambert) Double pink two-tone pansy. Variegated medium green and cream, plain. Semiminiature
Von's Marissa	(8670) 11/08/97	(Y. Lambert) Single pink two-tone sticktite frilled pansy. Variegated green white and pink, plain. Semiminiature
Von's Soft Touch	(8671) 11/08/97	(Y. Lambert) Semidouble lavender pansy/darker-tipped top petals. Variegated green, white and pink, plain, hairy. Semiminiature
Whirligig Star		(K. Stork) Single white sticktite star/red-plum patches. Medium green. Standard
Windmill		(K. Stork) Single white sticktite star/plum-purple patches. Medium green glossy. Standard
†Wishing Well		(K. Stork) Single-semidouble vivid purple large star/green-white frilled edge. Medium-dark green, wavy. Standard
Yesterday's Kiss	(8712) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Semidouble-double medium-dark blue ruffled star. Dark green heart-shaped, glossy, serrated. Standard
Yesterday's Love	(8713) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Semidouble-double medium pink frilled star/blue fantasy. Medium-dark green, pointed, serrated. Large
Yvon Decelles	(8727) 04/25/98	(J. Brownlie) Semidouble blue star/white streaks, edge. Variegated medium green, pink and white, scalloped. Standard



Columnea
"Broget Stavanger"
Grown and Exhibited by: Jeani Hatfield

BUILDING A PLANT STAND

by Don Geiss

The lady commented that she could not find room in the house to put her violets. She stated that her modern home did not have any windowsills.

That problem is faced at virtually every workshop or craft show in which we participate. It then becomes a conversation devoted to alternate locations and/or methods of placing plants. Generally, we try to show the feasibility of plant stands and the use of artificial lights.

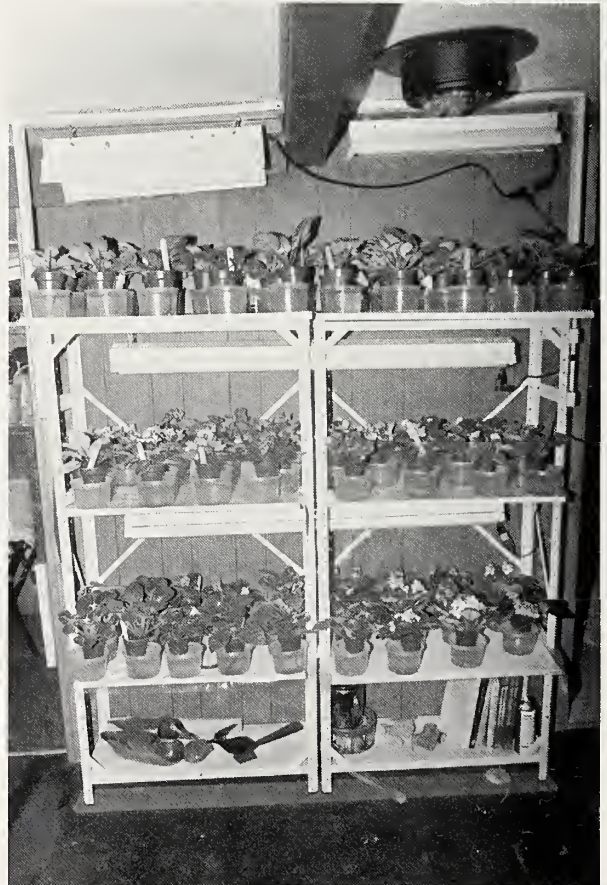
Invariably our preference turns to a way of modifying a metal, four-shelf storage unit for use as a plant stand. Often they can be found on sale for about \$12. These can be spray painted a color compatible with the room decor (\$3).

The stand can be assembled according to the instructions included. The shelf height can be adjusted so that three shelves are about 20 inches apart. As the reader will note by the photo, there will be a top shelf with an added frame above and then two additional shelves. Finally the bottom shelf can be used for storage since there will only be about 14 inches of space left out of a total stand height of 60 inches.

The added top frame can be made of 1" x 2" wood or of PVC pipe. It is simply an assembly similar to a "football goal-post" with the top arms eliminated. Its purpose, as the photo illustrates, is to suspend a fluorescent shoplight over the top shelf. The height above the plant tops can be made adjustable by cutting the side struts of the goal post extra long and then running them up or down the side of the plant rack. Holes can be made at various distances apart in the struts so that they can be bolted to the rack side at heights determined after they have had lights installed.

The stand generally has shelving about 10" to 12" wide. Extra width can be added by bolting on one quarter inch masonite or plywood, so that the stand can carry more plants. It should be cut to fit on top of each shelf, perhaps as wide as 18 inches. That addition should be bolted to the metal shelf. This arrangement may cause the stand to be unsteady. Solve this problem by anchoring it to the wall.

To the underside of each shelf and the top goal post, attach a four foot shoplight at a sale cost of about \$9 each. We use fluorescent tubes of cool light on sale for about \$1 each. It should be noted that the very construction of the



commercial rack allows for adjustment of the shelves higher or lower depending on the experience of the user. There is nothing that binds the user into a predetermined height. Small suspension hooks can be bolted under the shelves and through the goal post above to hold the light fixtures.

The total cost of the rack, paint, lights and shelving purchased on sale, plus suspension hooks for the lights should not exceed \$60. Of course the prices might vary slightly from state to state. We cannot stress enough that the photo be used as a reference because detailing each step is extremely difficult. In some cases a person who is handy about the house can immediately see the details. We recognize that there are some households where assembly of the various parts is difficult if not impossible. Perhaps a friend can be conned into helping out or maybe the local dealer would be willing to assemble the basic unit.

For the handyman, some of the accessories are proba-

bly available in the workshop. Pieces of masonite or plywood may already be available. The appropriate suspension hooks may also be stored in various containers about the shop.

Another fact that might be overlooked in the discussion of artificial lighting is that the shoplight may be suspended over any table. For instance, a coffee table will serve as a great plant stand. We have made these stands for others by using a painted piece of plywood bolted or screwed to the top of an old end table. In a couple of cases we found an old coffee table for a dollar or two in garage

sales. In one case a piano bench served the purpose. In these instances, the stand was sprayed a decor-matching color. Once again using our goal post analogy, the device can be bolted to the sides of the table for the purpose of hanging the light fixture.

Perhaps the matter may be summed up by noting that where there is a will, there is a way to add more plant space. Perhaps by using the artificial light method the reader will find even more success in raising African violets than with the more traditional idea of using the window sill.

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM 1 JUNE TO 31 JULY

Mr. Seiji Sakuma, Tokyo, Japan. \$30.00

Apply to Beaumont computer up-grade program

Mr. Yutaka Nagasawa, Tokyo, Japan. \$30.00

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Mrs. Takako Tamaura, Tokyo, Japan. \$30.00

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Sandra Lester, Kodak, TN. \$5.00

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In lieu of judges expenses for Kurt Eckard,

AVS Phila; Jan Marasco, Central Jersey AVS and

Bob Kurzynski, AVS North Jersey

Fu Chen Tung, Kao Hsiuny, Taiwan. \$2.00

Dorothy Galvin, Houston, TX. \$25.00

Potomac Council of AV Judges, VA. \$25.00

*In fond memory of our charter member and
honorary lifetime member, Myrtle McKneely*

E.M. McClelland, Elwood, IN. \$5.00

Elizabeth Whitesides, Raleigh, NC. \$10.00

Susan Fraley, Albany, NY. \$5.00

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First AVS of Spartanburg, Woodruff, SC. \$15.00

Jack Wilson, Manassas, VA. \$25.00

In lieu of speaker's fee to

The Woman's Community Club, Kensington, MD

Debra Csuy, Winter Springs, FL. \$10.00

Betsy Branson, Flourtown, PA. \$2.50

WI Council of AV Clubs, Menomonee, WI. \$25.00

In lieu of speaker's fee to Mr. Steve Covola

Apply to Beaumont computer up-grade program

Green County Late Bloomers, Monroe, WI. \$15.00

Milwaukee AV Society, Milwaukee, WI. \$15.00

Total \$564.50



Showcase

Mama's Little Sport

1998 Introduction

*Grown and Hybridized by: **Ruby Cox***

Semiminiature



Fantasy Freckles

1998 Introduction

*Grown and Hybridized by
Frank Tinari, Tinari Greenhouses*

Standard





"Bertha"

Best in Class 1998 National Show

*Grown and Exhibited by: **Dorothy Kosowsky***

*Hybridized by: **Bill Foster***

Standard

To honor **Bill and Paula Foster**,
special awards for the best 'Bertha' will be given at the
1999 AVSA convention in Houston, TX,
in both amateur and commercial classes.

Please make plans to enter your 'Bertha' when you go to
Houston to join the Lone Star Violet Round-up, April 4-11, 1999.

From Russia, With Love

by Shirley Sanders
San Antonio, TX



Elizabeth Sadova

I have many times stated that our little African violet plant has done more to spread love and friendship than any diplomat has ever achieved. Proof of this has come to us from Moscow.

I have been writing to some of our violet friends in Moscow for the past three years. Elizabeth Sadova was our first correspondent. She is employed by a company called Centre for Business Skills Development. The company provides training

for multinational businesses in Russia and brings her to the United States two to four times a year. She called us while on one of these trips and wanted to purchase leaves to take back to Moscow when she returned home. I sent her AVSA magazines, pictures of African violets and other material on how to care for plants. She and I have become friends and now correspond through e-mail. She has since become a member of AVSA and has ordered the book Growing to Show and our AVSA Fiftieth Anniversary Book.

One of Elizabeth's trips to the U. S. brought her to San Antonio. We were privileged to have had her as a guest in our home in July. We spent the day in the Violet House talking about the plants, answering questions she had about growing the African violet and our methods for making soil, potting up leaves, transplanting, and what fertilizers we use. Elizabeth took pictures of the plants to take back to Russia and selected several leaves to take home as well, which my husband, Sandy, boxed up for air travel.

Some of our club members and friends joined us in the evening to celebrate her visit in San Antonio. Alma and

Bob Hummer had visited Russia and had much to talk with Elizabeth about, as did the rest of our friends; Bill and Dea Johnson, Douglas Gregory, Hector Becerra, Steve Spachek, Marjorie Crawford and Ken Froboese.

Of course we had many questions to ask of our Russian friend about their methods for growing violets. They have had an African violet club in Moscow for four years. We were surprised to hear that before their club in Moscow was formed there was an amateur club in Biophytum for 30 years! I asked if many subscribed to the AVM and was told that because of the language barrier that only two people in their club receive the magazine. Too bad it isn't published in different languages! What sales we would have!

Their club has 30 members and this number varies as some members go and new members join. They have a show and sale twice a year, usually at the end of spring and again in August or September. The show plants are sold on the last day of the show.

Until they began receiving leaves from growers here in the United States, they bought their plants from growers in Holland. Most of the plants they bought were Ballet or Optimara® varieties. They truly enjoy getting so many different varieties that are hybridized in our country. There are growers in Russia who are now hybridizing and they can buy some plants from them, but the majority come from American hybridizers.

Elizabeth explained that people in Moscow live mainly in apartments with one to three rooms. This does not give much area for growing space, but as most of us know, where the



Irina Danilina



*Back (L to R): Steve Spachek, Hector Becerra, Bill & Dea Johnson and Ken Froboese
Middle (L to R): Shirley Sanders, Elizabeth Sadova, Bob Hummer, Majorie Crawford, Alma Hummer, and Sandy Sanders
Front: Douglas Gregory*

African violet is concerned we *will* make room! She gave me a picture of her violets and they are very pretty, all grown from leaves she ordered from us in past years.

Elizabeth wrote recently to say: "The violets are growing and soon I will be repotting them in small pots. The perlite and vermiculite you sent me helps a lot; it makes the soil more porous and light. This winter my husband promised to add one more shelf where I can place violets and one more additional lamp with artificial light. You know it is like a disease spreading and it is very hard to stop when you start your collection!"

I also have been writing to Irina Danilina who is a member of the same club. She is also a member of AVSA and is very appreciative of all materials that we can give to their club to help them grow better violets.

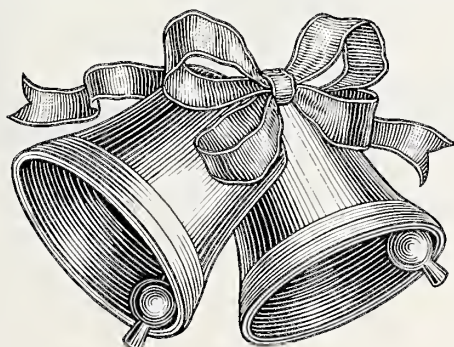
Irina was kind enough to send pictures of her plants, and said, "As a violet lover, maybe you are acquainted with some of my violet problems. It's very dry and hot in my flat, sometimes my violets get sick and die. I live in a single room flat and my collection occupies my kitchen and the window

of my only room. I know it's too small a space."

She also has violets at her work place but cannot have a controlled temperature there or at home. She says, "As a result, I cannot grow superior show plants." The pictures she sent show me that she is doing a very good job of raising violets under these conditions. They cannot get vermiculite and perlite and have been using sand in their soil. There has been some trouble with petiole rotting and the leaf staying green for some days after. The sand could be causing the soil to hold the water, and account for the rotting.

Irina sent me one of their violet magazines called, "In Violet World". She had an article in this issue and will be writing more. Of course it's in Russian and I can't read it, but the pictures are great! They are putting out a very informative magazine and writing about some of the people here in our violet world.

I hope this has given you a little insight into two of our friends from Moscow. It is such a blessing that it is now possible for the people in these two countries to get to know each other and share our love for the plant that brought us together.





Violet Growers



New Design Watch (sm)\$30.00
 New Design Watch (lg)\$30.00



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AVSA Letter Opener.....\$3.00
 Orders of 5 or more\$2.50 ea.

1998 BEST VARIETIES

Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
floydll@earthlink.net

Welcome to AVSA's second "World's 25 Best African Violets" List. Sound pretentious? Maybe, but this list is from growers around the world sending in their lists of the 25 violets which were their favorites. Lists came from four continents and eight nations. This is a truly worldwide effort. Thank you to all who participated. Your comments on the new format will be appreciated.

Again this year we feature the new style of listing the Twenty-five Top Favorites. In addition, we have added the descriptions from AVSA's First Class computer database. Hopefully this will help growers in their selection of new and beautiful plants for their collections.

1. **Irish Flirt** (7577) 11/07/91 (S. Sorano) Double bright green and white frilled star. Medium green, wavy. **Semiminiature**
2. **Ness' Crinkle Blue** (8136) 01/19/95 (D. Ness) Double dark blue star/thin white edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
3. **Picasso** (6924) 10/04/88 (M. Tremblay) Double light blue/white fantasy. **Variegated** medium green, plain/silver-green back. **Large**
4. **Tomahawk** (7269) 01/22/90 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double bright red. Dark green, plain. **Large**
5. **Precious Pink** (6025) 07/05/85 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink. TL **variegated**, plain. **Semiminiature**
6. **Ode to Beauty** (7677) 02/28/92 (Cox/B. Johnson) Semidouble medium coral star/thin raspberry band, white edge. Dark green, plain, quilted. **Large**
7. **Granger's Wonderland** (3419) 05/01/78 (Eyerdom) Semidouble light blue frilled. Plain, ruffled. **Large**
8. **Happy Cricket** (5726) 04/29/84 (Hollada) Double lavender two-tone frilled. Dark green, ruffled/red back. **Large**
9. **Melodie Kimi** (8100) 09/15/94 (Sunnyside/Levy) Single white sticktite pansy/purple-blue top petals, tips. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy. **Standard**
10. **Pixie Blue** (2598) 09/16/74 (L. Lyon) Single purple-blue/darker center. Plain, ovate. **Miniature trailer**
11. **Mickey Mouse** (H. Inpijn) Double dark blue. Dark green, pointed/red back. **Miniature**
12. **Milky Way Trail** (7169) 08/01/89 (J. Stahl) Single-semidouble white pansy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Semiminiature trailer**
13. **Little Pro** (6637) 06/11/87 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink. Dark green, quilted, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**
14. **Ness' Satin Rose** (8144) 01/19/95 (D. Ness) Double rose-mauve two-tone star. Dark green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**
15. **Lela Marie** (5668) 02/07/84 (I. Lineberg) Double light pink frilled. **Variegated**, pointed, ruffled. **Standard**
16. **International** (B. Johnson) Single-semidouble light pink pansy/wide raspberry edge. Dark green, plain, glossy. **Standard**
17. **Optimara Rose Quartz** (6969) 11/19/88 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble pink. Medium green, ovate, pointed, glossy, hairy. **Miniature**
18. **Rob's Sticky Wicket** (6467) 01/27/87 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light fuchsia. Medium green, pointed. **Semiminiature trailer**
19. **Splendiferous** (5813) 09/20/84 (S. Whitaker) Single pale pink star/red eye, wide white frilled edge. Dark green, quilted. **Large**
20. **Amazing Grace** (2688) 05/22/75 (Soultis) Semidouble light pink frilled star. Ruffled. **Large**
21. **Nortex's Snowkist Haven** (6046) 09/12/85 (B. Johnson) Single white frilled star. Medium green, pointed, quilted, hairy. **Standard**
22. **Marching Band** (8645) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble hot pink pansy/raspberry-red sparkle edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**
23. **Powwow** (7708) 06/15/92 (K. Stork) Semidouble red pansy. **Variegated** green and cream, plain. **Standard**
24. **Tiger** (3433) 06/01/78 (I. Fredette) Semidouble dark blue-violet. **Variegated**. **Large**
25. **Favorite Child** (7676) 02/28/92 (Cox/B. Johnson) Semidouble white ruffled pansy/medium blue eye, rays, edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

African Violet

Nutrition

(and plants in general)

by Dave Neal, CEO Dyna-Gro™ Corp.

From a presentation given at the
1998 AVSA Convention in Sacramento, CA

Part 2 of a 2 part series

The Elements of Complete Plant Nutrition

The following is a brief summary of the roles of each of the essential and beneficial mineral nutrients, crucial to plant growth. Plants lacking any one of these elements will display growth abnormalities, symptoms of deficiency, and may not reproduce normally, if at all. Excessive levels of many of these essential elements can be toxic to plants as well.

Macronutrients

Nitrogen is a major component of proteins, hormones, chlorophyll, vitamins and enzymes essential for plant life. Nitrogen metabolism is a major factor in stem and leaf growth (vegetative growth). Too much can delay flowering and fruiting. This is why we use a low nitrogen formula to promote flowering. Nitrogen deficiencies can reduce yields, cause yellowing of the leaves and stunt growth.

Phosphorus is necessary for seed germination, photosynthesis, protein formation and almost all aspects of growth and metabolism in plants. It is essential for flower and fruit formation. Low pH (<4) results in phosphate being chemically locked up in organic soils. Note that peat based mixes tend to be acidic, particularly as they break down over time. This can lead to phosphorus deficiencies. Deficiency symptoms include purple stems and leaves and retarded maturity and growth. Yields of fruit and flowers are poor. Premature drop of fruit and flowers may often occur. Phosphorus must be applied close to the plant's roots for the plant to utilize it. Large applications of phosphorus without adequate levels of zinc can cause a zinc deficiency.

Potassium is necessary for formation of sugars, starches, carbohydrates, protein synthesis and cell division in roots and other parts of the plant. It helps to adjust water balance, improves stem rigidity and cold hardiness. It also enhances flavor and color in fruit and vegetable crops, increases the oil content of fruit and is important for leafy crops. Deficiencies result in low yields, mottled, spotted or curled leaves, scorched or burned look to leaves.

Sulfur is a structural component of amino acids, proteins, vitamins and enzymes and is an essential component of chlorophyll. It imparts flavor to many vegetables.

Deficiencies show as light green leaves. Sulfur is readily leached from soils and should be applied with a nutrient formula. Some water supplies may contain sulfur in the form of sulfates and sulfites.

Magnesium is a critical structural component of the chlorophyll molecule and is necessary for functioning of plant enzymes to produce carbohydrates, sugars and fats. It is used for fruit and nut formation and is essential for germination of seeds. Deficient plants appear chlorotic, show yellowing between veins of older leaves; leaves may droop. Magnesium is leached by watering and must be supplied when feeding. It can be applied as a foliar spray to correct deficiencies.

Calcium activates enzymes, is a structural component of cell walls, influences water movement in cells and is necessary for cell growth and division. Some plants must have calcium to take up nitrogen and other minerals. Calcium is easily leached. Calcium, once deposited in plant tissue, is immobile (non-translocatable) so there must be a constant supply for growth. Deficiency causes stunting of new growth in stems, flowers and roots. Symptoms range from distorted new growth to black spots on leaves and fruit. Yellow leaf margins may also appear.

Micronutrients

Iron is necessary for many enzyme functions and as a catalyst for the synthesis of chlorophyll. It is essential for the young growing parts of plants. Deficiency symptoms include pale leaf color of young leaves followed by yellowing of leaves and large veins. Iron is lost by leaching and is held in the lower portions of the soil structure. Under conditions of high pH (alkaline soils) iron is rendered unavailable to plants. When soils are alkaline, iron may be abundant but unavailable. Application of an acidic nutrient formula containing iron chelates, held in soluble form, should correct the problem.

Manganese is involved in enzyme activity for photosynthesis, respiration, and nitrogen metabolism. Deficiency in young leaves may show a network of green veins on a light green background similar to an iron deficiency. In the advanced stages, the light green parts become white, and leaves are shed. Brownish, black or grayish spots may appear next to the veins. In neutral or alkaline soils, plants often show deficiency symptoms. In highly acidic soils, manganese may be available in toxic levels.

Zinc is a component of enzymes or a functional cofactor of a large number of enzymes including auxins (plant growth hormones). It is essential to carbohydrate metabolism, protein synthesis and internodal elongation (stem growth). Deficient plants have mottled leaves with irregular chlorotic areas. Zinc deficiency leads to iron deficiency causing similar symptoms. Deficiency occurs on eroded soils and is least available at a pH range of 5.5 - 7.0.

Lowering the pH can render zinc more available to the point of toxicity.

Copper is concentrated in roots of plants and plays a part in nitrogen metabolism. It is a component of several enzymes and may be part of the enzyme systems that use carbohydrates and proteins. Deficiencies cause die back of the shoot tips, and terminal leaves develop brown spots. Copper is bound tightly in organic matter and may be deficient in highly organic soils. It is not readily lost from soil but may often be unavailable. Too much copper can be toxic to plants.

Molybdenum is a structural component of the enzyme that reduces nitrates to ammonia. Without it, the synthesis of proteins is blocked and plant growth ceases. Root nodule (nitrogen fixing) bacteria also require molybdenum. Seeds may not form completely, and nitrogen deficiency may occur if plants are lacking molybdenum. Deficiency signs are pale green leaves with rolled or cupped edges.

Chlorine is involved in osmosis, (movement of water or solutes in cells), the ionic balance necessary for plants to take up mineral elements and in photosynthesis. Deficiency symptoms include wilting, stubby roots, chlorosis (yellowing) and bronzing. Odors in some plants may be decreased. Chloride (Cl⁻), the ionic form of chlorine which plants use, is usually found in soluble forms and is lost by leaching. Some plants may show signs of toxicity if levels are too high. Note: molecular chlorine (Cl₂), often used to kill microorganisms in our drinking water, can be toxic to plants.

Nickel is the most recent addition to the list of essential trace elements for plants. It is required for the enzyme urease, which some plants use to break down urea into usable forms of nitrogen. Nickel is required as a catalyst for iron absorption. Seeds need nickel in order to germinate. Plants grown without additional nickel will gradually reach a deficient level at about the time they mature and begin reproductive growth. If nickel is deficient, plants may fail to produce viable seeds.

Sodium is involved in osmotic (water movement) and ionic balance in plants.

Cobalt is required for nitrogen fixation in legumes and in root nodules of nonlegumes. The demand for cobalt is much higher for nitrogen fixation than for ammonium nutrition. Deficient levels could result in nitrogen deficiency symptoms.

Silicon is found as a component of cell walls. Plants with supplies of soluble silicon produce stronger, tougher cell walls creating a mechanical barrier to the mouth parts of piercing and sucking insects. Silicon significantly enhances plant heat, drought and cold tolerance. Foliar sprays of silicon have also shown benefits reducing populations of aphids on field crops. Research has shown that silicon is deposited by the plants at the site of fungal infec-

tion to combat the penetration of cell walls by the attacking fungal hyphae. Improved leave erectness, stem strength and prevention or depression of iron and manganese toxicity have all been noted as resulting from supplying the plant with soluble silicon. Silicon is known to be essential to members of the poaceae or grass family, but has shown benefits to a wide variety of plants.

Fertilizers are, by definition, intended to be used in soil to increase the fertility of that soil. Since most of you grow African violets in soilless mixes, mere fertilizer with N-P-K and three or four trace elements is not going to provide complete nutrition for your plants.

Let's look at the nutritional requirements of African violets, specifically. See the table on page 44. (Nutritional Requirements of African Violets)

Note the order of importance of the six macronutrients: potassium, nitrogen, calcium, magnesium, sulfur and phosphorus. How many of you have used a fertilizer with a phosphorus number of 40 or 50? You risk phosphate toxicity with repeated use of this amount of phosphorus since the plant cannot begin to use more than a small portion of this nutrient. I wish that I could tell you the optimum levels of each of these elements. However, the information in this table is the most complete analysis of African violet nutritional requirements that I could locate in my research for this article. The authors of the text from which this was taken actually presented three columns: insufficient, sufficient and excessive. The range of sufficient levels is rather broad. Accordingly, we do not know what level is optimum.

One step that a number of orchid growers have taken is to take leaf samples from a number of apparently healthy orchids and have analyses done to determine the level of each essential element in them. For one group, this was done by one of the growers who worked in a lab and had access to the analytical equipment necessary to perform the work. While even these healthy plants had a rather wide range of levels of each of the elements, they did remain roughly proportional and agreed in order of elemental concentrations within the plants from each of the various participants.

If six to eight violet growers could submit leaf tissue to an analytical lab for analysis, we might be able to come up with some more useful information regarding optimum levels of nutrients. This information might be even more useful if all of the sampled plants were judged to be of superior characteristics by accredited African violet judges.

The Nutrition Solution®

Another writer in the November-December issue of the African Violet Magazine cites the practice of rotating or mixing fertilizers "to ensure their plants are getting complete nutrition." For this practice to be effective, one must assume that between them, the various fertilizers being

used are "complete." This assumption could be a dangerous one if they are not. Typical fertilizers contain N-P-K but no calcium, magnesium or sulphur. Moreover, they may have 4 or 5 of the 10 essential trace elements but not all 10. Most importantly, they all have the same 4 or 5: iron, manganese, copper, zinc, and occasionally, molybdenum. So, no matter how many different combinations of these elements you would get from mixing fertilizers, you still do not end up with the other essential elements.

The good news is that Dyna-Gro™, The Nutrition Solution®, contains all of these essential elements in an easy to use liquid concentrate. When coupled with Pro-TeKt®, The Silicon Solution®, Dyna-Gro™ formulae provide plants with every element needed for complete nutrition and optimum growth. For more information about Dyna-Gro™ nutrients see our ad in this magazine, call us at 800-Dyna-Gro, see our web site at Dyna-Gro.com or e-mail us at info@Dyna-Gro.com.

What Do the Numbers on the Label Mean?

These numbers stand for the percentages by weight in the package of elemental nitrogen - N, molecular phosphorus expressed as phosphate (P₂O₅), and molecular potassium expressed as potash (K₂O). This means that a 20-20-20 formula is actually 20% elemental nitrogen, 8.7% elemental phosphorus and 16.6% elemental

potassium by weight.

In the case of phosphorus (P₂O₅), the percentage of elemental phosphorus can be calculated by a fraction, the numerator of which is the atomic weight of 2 phosphorus atoms (2 x 31) and the denominator of which is the sum of the atomic weights of 2 phosphorus atoms and 5 oxygen atoms (2 x 31)+(5 x 16) or 61/141 = 43.6%. By a similar calculation, we can see that elemental potassium is actually only 83% of the potash. [Since the number on the label represents the percentage by weight of K₂O, elemental potassium is calculated by the fraction 39/(2 x 39)+16 83%]. This distinction is important when you are attempting to utilize the numbers on the fertilizer label to meet the nutritional requirements of your plants.

All other elements are expressed as a percentage by weight of the elemental form of the element whether the element is part of a larger molecule or not. For example the 2% calcium in Dyna-Gro's complete nutrition formulae is 2% elemental calcium by weight. Similarly, though trace elements such as iron, copper, manganese and zinc are usually present as part of a larger chelate molecule to keep them in solution and hence available to the plant, the amount on the label represents the percentage by weight of only the trace element itself and not the accompanying EDTA chelate.

Nutritional Requirements of African Violets (*Saintpaulia ionantha*)

Macronutrients		Micronutrients	
Element	Sufficient (%)		
Element	Sufficient (ppm)		
Potassium -K	3.00-6.50	Iron - Fe	50-200
Nitrogen - N	3.00-6.00	Manganese - Mn	40-200
Calcium - Ca	1.00-2.00	Zinc - Zn	25-200
Magnesium - Mg	0.35-0.75	Boron - B	25-75
Sulphur - S	0.30-0.70	Copper - Cu	8-35
Phosphorus - P	0.30-0.70	Chlorine - Cl	?
Silicon-Si	?	Sodium-Na	?
Carbon-C		Molybdenum-Mo	?
Oxygen-O		Nickel-Ni	?
Hydrogen-H		Cobalt-Co	?

Based upon tissue analysis of most recent fully developed leaf Plant Analysis Handbook, 2nd Ed.

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

November Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 SUN 6:27 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
2 MON	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
3 TUE 6:12 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
4 WED	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	Full 12:18 am
5 THU 5:11 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
6 FRI	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
7 SAT 5:39 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
8 SUN	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
9 MON 9:33 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
10 TUE	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th 7:29 pm
11 WED 5:38 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
12 THU	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
13 FRI	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
14 SAT 4:58 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
15 SUN	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
16 MON 5:42 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
17 TUE	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
18 WED	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	New 11:27 pm
19 THU 6:13 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
20 FRI	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
21 SAT 5:46 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
22 SUN	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
23 MON	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
24 TUE 3:43 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
25 WED	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
26 THU 11:14 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd 7:22 pm
27 FRI	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
28 SAT 3:34 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
29 SUN	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
30 MON 4:52 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd

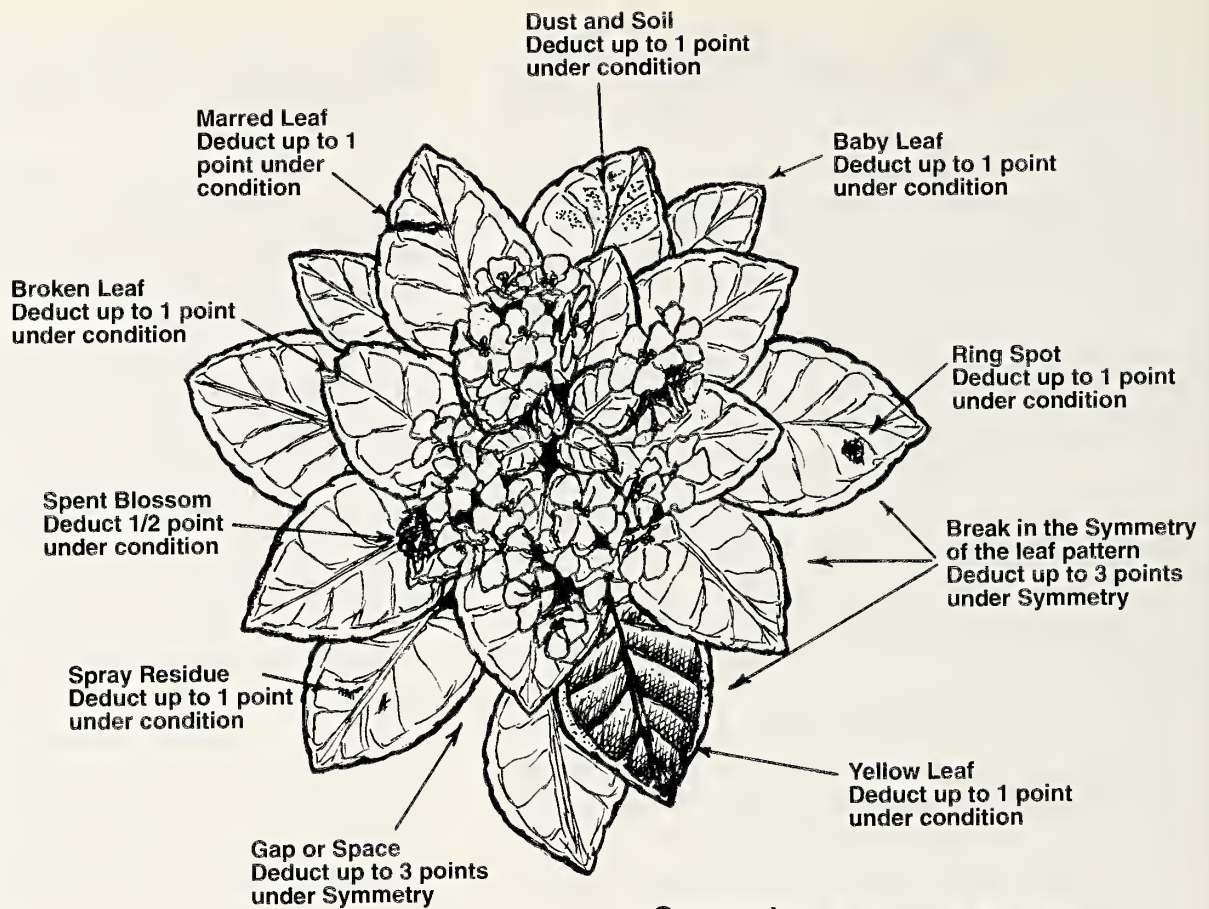
December Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 TUE	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
2 WED 4:30 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
3 THU	Gemini	Air	Barren	Full 10:20 am
4 FRI 4:28 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
5 SAT	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
6 SUN 6:56 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
7 MON	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
8 TUE	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
9 WED 1:22 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
10 THU	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th 12:54 pm
11 FRI 11:44 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
12 SAT	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
13 SUN	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
14 MON 12:17	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
15 TUE	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
16 WED 12:47 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
17 THU	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
18 FRI 11:55 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	New 5:42 pm
19 SAT	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
20 SUN	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
21 MON 9:17 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
22 TUE	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
23 WED 4:45 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
24 THU	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
25 FRI 10:04 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
26 SAT	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd 5:46 am
27 SUN	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
28 MON 1:05 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
29 TUE	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
30 WED 2:22 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
31 THU	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 40, 42 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4

JUDGING THE SHOW PLANT

Compiled by Bill Foster and Mary Ann Corrigan



Symmetry - the shape of the plant
Condition - cultural aspect of the
plant at the time it is judged



Plant not centered in pot
Deduct up to 3 points
under condition



Neck
Deduct up to
3 points
under condition



Over potted
Deduct up to 3 points
under condition



Under potted
Deduct up to 3 points
under condition

Temperature, Humidity, Air Circulation

by Monte Watler
Canada

Temperature - Generally speaking, the ideal temperature for growing indoor plants is 65°F to 80°F. Since most indoor plants are indigenous to the tropics it is natural that we try to provide them with an environment as close to their natural habitat as feasible. But this is not always possible with the gesneriad family. They have been acquired from varied climactic areas of the globe and require various conditions for growing. So, instead of adjusting our conditions to suit an assorted collection of plants we must select plants that are happy with our existing conditions. While many are adaptable and will adjust to unaccustomed conditions, it is improbable that one would be successful in growing an alpine gesneriad such as *Ramonda* in close proximity with an *Episcia* which is a tropical, heat-loving species.

It is recommended, as beginners, that you learn as much as possible about your plants and try to afford them the necessary requirements. While most indoor plants will tolerate, and some actually benefit from a slight change in temperature it is advisable to maintain an even temperature. A sudden change, either hot or cold, can be detrimental to your plants. If, for comfort or economical reasons you find it necessary to reduce your thermostat at night this may result in an unacceptable low temperature in the plant room. You can counteract this by running your plant lights at night and enclosing your plant stands in a clear plastic wrap. This will keep the temperature at a level which may not adversely effect your plants.

Humidity - is a must for most plants and quite often one of the more difficult conditions to provide. In winter our central heating systems produce dry air and in summer, although of lesser consequence, our air conditioning extracts moisture from the air. Normally we can add humidity by adding a thermostatically controlled humidifier to the furnace but this is usually set at 40% for house comfort while plants require the minimum of 60%. However, there are ways of increasing the humidity in the plant room without affecting the other areas of the house.

Following are some ways to increase humidity:

- (1) Set plants on trays or individual saucers of pebbles with water below the top level of the pebbles. Water will

evaporate and rise providing extra humidity.

- (2) Place a humidifier in the room. An inexpensive vaporizer from the pharmacy can be quite effective.
- (3) Jars of water placed among the plants on the plant shelf will also increase the humidity.
- (4) If you have deep plant trays, cover them with egg grating as a base on which to place your plants. Fill the tray with water which will evaporate and increase the humidity.
- (5) Cover your plants with a clear plastic sheet. This will increase the temperature as well as contain the moisture which is emitted by the plants.

Misting - is another means of increasing humidity, but one which I do not find very effective. Perhaps, if automatic misting could be arranged where misting took place at regular intervals it would be effective, but when it is done on an occasional basis the benefit is hardly worth the effort. Should you decide to mist your plants make sure that the water is as hot as possible. Cold water will damage the leaves and if your water is lukewarm to start with it will be cold by the time it passes through the air and reaches the plant.

Most gesneriads dislike dry air and will not hesitate in showing their displeasure; leaves will turn yellow and fall, leaf tips will dry out and become parched, the development of growth and blossoms will be affected and bud blasting will occur.

Air circulation - Plants should never be exposed to drafts or cold air blowing directly on them. If placed in an area where there is static air, it is necessary to have some air circulating. This can be provided by installing a small fan near the light garden, but not where the air will blow directly on the plants. Lack of ventilation and poor air movement may result in mildew as well as crown rot on some plants. *Saintpaulia*, *Sinningia*, and *Episcia* are some of the species that are susceptible to crown rot. Good ventilation will also help to provide a more even temperature in the plant room.

*Reprinted with permission from Chatter,
Journal of the AVS of Canada*

FANTASIES AND OTHER COLOR CHANGES

by Jean Hayston • Australia

Quite frequently members request plantlets or leaves of plants they have seen in flower. Then, having grown their plantlet or leaf on to the flowering stage they find it is something different. The immediate reaction is that they have been given an incorrectly named plant or leaf and disappointment and frustration occur.

However, it must be remembered that all our violets, except the species, are hybrids and therefore have in their make-up a grouping of color combinations. From time to time plants will revert or mutate to something old or something new. Indeed, this is how many of our varieties have come into being.

Some plants in particular are prone to change. Fantasies can do anything; sometimes they fail to have fantasy flowers, sometimes they come in bicolors, sometimes you get

two completely different colors on one plant. 'Chiffon Print' usually comes true for me, although I have had on occasions a plain blue flower. 'Paisley Print', however, more often fails to produce a fantasy flowers than not, for me. I have four distinct plants of one variety, all of them most attractive and worth growing and continuing true to the new color if grown from a side shoot.

So if you secure a leaf or plantlet and find it turns out completely different to what you asked for, don't blame the supplier. It is in the nature of things that this can happen and sometimes the result can be surprising and beautiful.

Reprinted with permission from *The African Violet*, publication of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.



Basics

From a program given by Shirley Nelson

Grooming Your Plants:

- Equipment for grooming: small cutting tool, alcohol to disinfect cutting tool, soft brush, dull pencil (for disbudding).
- Start when the plant is young. Remove immature or unnecessary leaves, unhealthy buds and stems.
- Groom your plants whether growing for enjoyment or show.
- Check your plants frequently for plantlets (suckers). They can distort the symmetry. Remove spent blossoms.
- When needed, wash the foliage with tepid water, tipping the plant and allowing the water to flow over the leaves which you are supporting with your hand. Pat carefully with a sponge or paper towel. Never use tissue - it leaves white fuzz on the leaves. Sometimes a very *gentle* brushing will remove soil or dust.

Basics of Showing:

- Try showing a plant for the fun of it.
- Select a balanced specimen that has good blooming potential. When a plant is 4" to 6" in diameter, let it bloom. Select plants that hold their blossoms nicely and show promise for producing 25 open flowers by show time.
- Repot your show plants every 3 months and remove leaves necessary to balance the plant.
- Disbud until 8 to 10 weeks before the show.
- Remember the following tips from a commercial grower for achieving larger leaves:
 1. Pot in a 1/2" smaller pot than normally.
 2. Remove a leaf or two every month.
 3. Alternate fertilizers, i.e. 20-20-20, 12-36-14 or 15-30-15

Reprinted with permission from *The 'Bloomin' Violet*, publication of the Cedar Valley Violet Club, IA

Overwatering is probably the most common way to “kill” an African violet. If a plant looks droopy, it may be due to too much water, rather than too little. Your plant needs watering if the pot feels light when you pick it up or if the top soil is dry to the touch. If you neglect to water and the plant dries out, treat it like a “lost” traveler in the desert by giving it small “sips” of plain water about an hour apart until it perks up. Never fertilize a dry plant. On average, violets should be watered about once a week.

Methods of Watering:

Top Watering: To each gallon of tepid water, add 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer. Use a long-spout watering can so you can keep the water away from the crown. Water will collect in the saucer. Do not let plants stand in the water overnight – violets do NOT like cold, wet feet!

Bottom Watering: Put about 1/4 inch of the fertilized water into the violet’s saucer. If the plant immediately sucks it up, repeat the process. Do not leave water in the saucer overnight.

Texas Style: Plants potted “Texas Style” have about 1-1/2 inches of perlite in the bottom of the pot. The perlite will draw the water up into the pot and to the fine root system. Water from the bottom, 1/4 inch at a time. The saucer should be about 2 inches larger in diameter than the pot.



Wick Watering: Thread a wick of acrylic yarn, nylon cord or a narrow piece of nylon stocking through one of the bottom holes when potting the plant. Lay the wick across the pot, but beneath the surface and near the base of the root ball. The wick should hang out of the pot about 3". Use an empty container (margarine tub, etc.), cut a hole in the top of the container lid and thread the wick through the hole to hang down into the fertilized water. Check weekly to be sure the plant has

not used all the water. Wick should be thoroughly wet to before it goes into the container.

Special Pots: Oyama and two-piece ceramic flare pots or other reservoir type pots should be used according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

Capillary Matting: Line a tray with an old foam-type acrylic blanket and then flood the tray. Set the pots on top, being sure they make good contact. Soil mix must be very light for this type of watering.

With all these watering methods, once a month the fertilizer salts should be “flushed out” by pouring plain water through the plant from the top. Do not let the plant sit in the “run-off.” If you use tap water for your violets, draw your supply in advance and let it sit overnight, so that the chlorine can escape.

Reprinted with permission from
Ye Bay Stater, publication of Bay State AVS

SOME THOUGHTS ON “VIOLET OVERLOAD”

by Steve Covolo • Chicago, IL

The number of violets a person owns is such a personal thing. Some people own hundreds and some only one. Most fall somewhere in the middle. I personally will only own what I can properly care for. A large collection can become overwhelming, not to mention a lot of work. I try to keep my collection under control, not allowing my hobby to control me.

I grow on a total of seven shelves with no plans to expand. I can give each plant excellent care and have a beautiful collection of many fine cultivars that grow well for me. I truly believe in the old rule of “quality, not quantity”. I would prefer to have one excellent violet than many that suffer from lack of attention. Excellent does not mean “show quality”, but a healthy plant that looks good. Own as many violets as *you* feel comfortable with.

The African violet world offers so much. Standards, small ones and trailers in all sizes, or all their related cousins. With such a vast selection to choose from, you can wake up one day and have violets everywhere. This is what I call

“Violet Overload”. Here are the guidelines I use to keep my collection in check.

I grow what I like. I shop and compare and play the “numbers game”, taking advantage of the “Best Variety List”, “Tally Time” and “And the winners are...” lists. Grow the violets *you* like. This judgment can be determined by flower color, flower style, leaf color, leaf shape and let’s not forget type and size of plants. You’ll care for your favorite plants first. What if your collection only contained your favorite plants?

Only grow what is appealing to *your* eye. Everyone sees things differently, so please yourself. Decide if this plant has “show potential” or if you simply enjoy the plant for its color, style or nostalgic qualities.

By growing what *you* like, by shopping and comparing the cultivars and playing the “numbers game”, you should be able to have a beautiful collection of violets that you’ll truly enjoy caring for. This will also bring you pride, along with well-cared for violets.

GROWING AND SHOWING African Violets

by Byron Borck • Santa Rosa, CA

"SALT THE OATS"

"You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." This statement seems so true for many situations from teaching children to growing violets. In my career as an educator I learned a more important ending for my first sentence. If you want a horse to drink, you can "salt the oats". With violets too, we need to "salt the oats" with some varieties in order to get them to grow properly.

Violets are grown for their ornamental beauty and give satisfaction to the grower when they come into full bloom. The goal of the grower is to produce a large head of blossoms. In the past, if a variety would not "perform" to my satisfaction, I would throw it away or give it away. Now I'm learning to patiently "salt the oats" and watch the results.

When a plant is not what you think it should be, you may want to try one of the following "salty" suggestions.

LIGHT: We all know the amount of light is the most critical factor in getting a plant to bloom. If a plant is in the right location, it seems to produce bloom after bloom. I am finding that some varieties do better closer to my fixtures and some farther away.

When grown under lights, plants with long petioles or leaves that reach upward may grow better closer to the light or if you increase the hours the lights are on. Plants with short petioles, blossoms hiding under the leaves, leaves that are congested or crowded in the crown, or leaves that hug the pot may need to be moved farther away from the light.

I have also found that varieties from a few hybridizers do very well in lower light. After I moved the Optimara, Rhapsodie, Melody, and Volkmann varieties to the end of the lighted shelves, the crowns were not as tight and the blossoms came out from under the leaves. Some of these grow well in natural light. Many yellow varieties also do better for me when they are farther from the light.

FERTILIZER: With plant varieties being as different as people, I have long wondered about feeding them all with the same fertilizer each time I water. Checking the labels on fertilizer containers may surprise you. Every one seems to be a little different as to the contents or where the contents came from.

The minor elements in a fertilizer are very important to assure proper growth. Check to make sure your fertilizer has

the minor elements.

Fertilizer made from animal products (urea) can build up in the soil. These need to be leached out from time to time.

I am finding products made from sea kelp; not made from urea, and fish emulsion (if you can stand the smell) to be very beneficial to my plants. The plants seem to be shinier, darker in color, and the blossoms, to be vibrant.

SOIL: If I have a plant that hasn't bloomed in awhile or doesn't seem to be growing, I repot it in a clean pot with fresh soil. Many times the pH has changed or the soil has soured for some unknown reason. When plants are watered, they should have an earthy smell.

PESTS: Those little sucking creatures slowly drain the life out of blossoms and some out of the plant itself. Every grower I know has fought the battle with them and with persistence has WON!

Thrips damage is easy to see with the pollen being spilled on the blossom petals. However, if a plant just isn't growing well, it may have another unwelcome creature living in the soil.

Pesticide use can also change the soil's pH. You are adding chemicals to the soil. Once you win the battle, repot it in fresh, clean soil.

TEMPERATURE: I often hear from growers that their plants do not seem to grow much during the winter. "Leaves are smaller and tight, petioles seem shorter, plants are stunted, and just don't look happy."

With newborn kittens in my home last winter the thermostat was on 65 degrees at night. My plants didn't slow down. They kept growing.

Violets like the same temperatures as people.

In teaching I also learned that you can't "change a child", but you can change "how" you teach the child. I have applied this lesson also to growing. If a plant won't grow the way I think it should, I try another way to motivate it – by "salting its oats".

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California Council News, joint publication of the
Northern and Southern CA AV Councils

African Violet Ornaments

Close your eyes and imagine lovely African violets on your Christmas tree or proudly displayed in your home during the holiday season. In December, two beautiful Christmas ornaments featuring outstanding African violets from the 1998 AVSA convention show will be available from the AVSA office.

I am sure everyone remembers the lovely violets that were the Best in Show and the Best New Introduction in Sacramento. They were 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy,' exhibited by Bev Promersberger, and 'Ms. Smartypants,' hybridized and exhibited by Sidney Sorano.

The ornament price will be less than \$20.00. An acrylic ornament stand will also be available for under \$5.00.

Make a note on your calendar to contact the AVSA office sometime in early December at 1-800-770-AVSA or by E-mail at <avsa@avsa.org>. Pictures of the ornaments and on-line ordering information will also be added to the AVSA web site.

Mary Walbrick, Ways & Means Committee Chairman

AVSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

We are proud to announce the formation and guidelines of the AVSA College Scholarship. Application instructions will appear in the January/February 1999 AVM.

- Applicants should have completed 24 semester or quarter hour credits by completion of the fall 1998 semester, with a minimum "B" grade average.

The award is \$1,000, which may be used for tuition, books or fees.

This is a one-time award with the opportunity to reapply in subsequent years, and is funded by the Boyce Edens Research Fund. The first award will be for the fall of 1999.

- Applicants should be enrolled in a 4 year undergraduate program, graduate program, in Ornamental Horticulture, Floriculture, or an equivalent program.

Coming Events



November 6 & 7 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Sale
Tarrytown Mall
Bypass 301 & Hwy. 64
Rocky Mount, NC
Both days: 10am - 7pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman
(919) 459 - 3722

November 7 & 8 - NEW JERSEY

Tristate AV Council
Annual Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
Joseph F. Haggerty Center
51 East Hanover Ave.
Morristown, NJ
Nov 7 - 1:30pm - 5pm
Nov 8 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Carol Ann Burrell
(914) 896 - 8605

November 7 & 8 - MISSOURI

Mid-America AVS Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center
5200 Pennsylvania
Kansas City, MO
Nov 7 - 10am - 4pm
Nov 8 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Grace McCurnin
913) 722 - 4085

November 12 - 14 - MARYLAND

Mid-Atlantic AVS
Convention and Show
Hosted by Baltimore AVC
BWI Sheraton Hotel
Baltimore-Washington
International Airport
Baltimore, MD
Info: Ken Barbi
(410) 757 - 5044

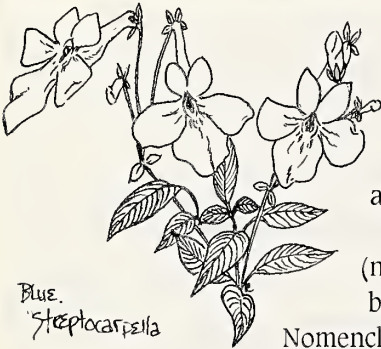
January 8 - 10 - MISSOURI

9th Annual
St. Louis Flower Show
America's Center
701 Convention Plaza
St Louis, MO
Info: (314) 997-3631

Saintpaulia's

FAMILY

by Joan Halford
South Africa



Wild plants are named according to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN). Plants that arise and are maintained in cultivation are given cultivar (non Latin) names governed by the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants.

Plants are grouped in families which are further sub-divided into genus, species and variety or cultivar for cultivated plants. According to the ICBN, plants have a two-part Latin technical name which includes genus and species. The genus part of the name designates the general type of plant being considered. The species part of the name may be a descriptive term.

Family

A plant family is an assemblage of genera (plural for genus) closely related through similarity of the arrangement of structural characteristics, mainly in flower parts.

The family to which the *Saintpaulia* belongs is named GESNERIACEAE (gez or jesnair-ee-ay-see-ee). It is a large family of mostly tropical herbs containing over 120 genera. People who grow them refer to them as "gesneriads".

The general characteristics which are typical and distinguish the GESNERIACEAE are:

- leaves are simple, having only one blade to the main leafstalk;
- flowers have a tubular calyx, 5-parted or lobed; the corolla is tubular, often with a considerable tube, the five lobes are usually unequal and often definitely two-lipped and strikingly irregular;
- hairs are present and often abundant on stems, leaves and flowers.

Some of the plants in this family which are cultivated besides the *Saintpaulia* (African violet), are: *Achimenes*, *Aeschynanthus*, *Chirita*, *Codonanthe*, *Columnnea*, *Episcia*, *Gesneria*, *Kohleria*, *Nautilocalyx*, *Nematanthus*, *Petrocosmea*, *Sinningia*, *Smithiantha* and *Streptocarpus*. These are the plants referred to as "kissing cousins" of the African violet.

Genus

The first botanical sub-division of the family is into genera. Each of these subdivisions is a genus and becomes the first part of the two-part Latin name which designates the specific plant. The first letter of the genus name is always capitalized. In texts the name is written in full the first time it is used, but may be abbreviated thereafter. The abbreviation "S" could mean *Saintpaulia*, *Sinningia* or *Streptocarpus*, depending on the reference which precedes the abbreviation. (The abbreviation for species is sp. (singular) or spp. (plural).

The African violet's genus name is *Saintpaulia*.

Species

The second part of the two-part technical name of a plant is a descriptive term defining the species which is a sub-division of a genus. The word species is used both as singular and plural. The species name is not capitalized. In texts it is written in italics or underlined.

Variety/cultivar

Variety is a botanical term for a closely related group of plants which make up a species. In the ICBN, the natural or botanical variety is the fourth sub-division of the plant family. In the genus *Saintpaulia*, some natural varieties have been classified. These have been found growing wild, are similar to the species under which they are classified and are not different enough to rate separate classification as a different species. These names are written in italics preceded by var. without capital letters. The African violet varieties are *S. magungensis* var. *minima* and *S. pendula* var. *kizarae*.



Cultivar is the proper term for a named horticultural variety as distinguished from a natural variety. The terms cultivar and variety are exact equivalents. Cultivars are horticultural mutations, plants improved by selection and hybrids named and distributed commercially.

Reprinted from The Transvaal African Violet Society club publication, South Africa

Tender Handling

by Hal McKain
Lamoni, IA

The exquisite blossom tossed light sparklers off its white petals. The green leaves looked strong holding up the bright blooms.

The year is up. Just 12 months ago this African violet was just one leaf in water. Now after about 60 "tender handlings" it is ready to be given away.

I did not know if I wanted to take it to work today to give it away. So, I followed the rule I had set up, "When tempted to do a good deed, just do it."

I wondered if I should give away this particularly beautiful plant. I followed the same rule. Just do it.

At work I set the African violet on my desk and turned on the lamp to display it. It was a beauty to behold.

A young man who also works part time at Graceland College walked up to me. I knew he was married and had a young daughter who had health problems. I said "Johnny, I want you to take this flower home for your wife. I want you to have it." He said, "Are you kidding?" "No," I told him, "you are my friend. I raise these as a hobby and I want you to have it." He said, "I feel like crying."

It flashed through my mind, somewhat surprising me, how much this meant to him. It really made me feel good that a simple hobby could bring so much joy to a young father and surely his family.

For certain, it was worth the 60 "tender handlings."



African violet insurance? PLANT THAT SUCKER!

by Nadine Parsons • La Crescenta, CA

Look at your plant closely. Be sure that it is healthy and free of insects. Check to see if the plant has a "sucker". (A sucker is the beginning of a new plant. It can form in the soil near the base of the plant or between the stems or axils of the plant.) This can be used to start a new plant that will grow and flower faster than one propagated from a leaf.

Removing the sucker can sometimes be a little tricky. Use a "Sucker Plucker", sharp pencil, nut pick, or similar tool. If the sucker is near the base of the plant, cut straight down and around the sucker and it will come loose. Sometimes it may have a few little roots.

If the sucker is growing in an axil of the plant, this can be a little trickier. Take your time. Using one of the above tools, cut around the sucker, pressing against the main stem of the plant until it comes loose. (Experience is the best teacher!)

Now that you have completed the hardest part, let the little sucker dry out for a few minutes while you prepare a small pot to put it in. Write the name of the plant and the date on the pot with a permanent ink pen. If you do not like

to write directly on the pot, use freezer tape.

Mix together 2 parts vermiculite, 1 part perlite, and about 1/4 part horticultural charcoal. Dampen with water which has had B-1 added to it (1 teaspoon to a quart of water). You can have this starter mix ready beforehand. Fill the pot with damp starter mix, pressing firmly. With a pencil, make a shallow indentation or hole in the mix. Place the sucker into it and press firmly around it. Use plastic toothpicks to hold it firmly so that it makes good contact with the soil. Place the pot into a baggie and tie with a wire twist. Place in good light for 2 or 3 weeks. Check on it during this time to see that it is kept slightly damp. Do not overwater! Water only when necessary. When the plant is large enough (leaves will extend over the edge of the pot) transfer to a larger pot.

If your original plant should succumb or otherwise go downhill, you will have taken steps to insure your plant, to replace the original.

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Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Cathy Cornibe - Santa Cruz, CA

***Miss Santa Cruz** (8729) 6/3/98 (C. Cornibe) Semidouble-double fuchsia-pink two-tone frilled/thin white edge, variable darker tips. **Variegated** green, white and pink. **Standard**

***San Mateo** (8730) 6/3/98 (C. Cornibe) Single semidouble purple two-tone frilled pansy/darker shading at tips, variable darker purple-green edge. **Variegated** green, white and pink, ruffled. **Standard**

***San Mateo Blues** (8731) 6/3/98 (C. Cornibe) Semidouble-double lavender-blue two-tone frilled large/variable white markings, thin white-green and/or purple edge. **Variegated** green, white and pink. **Standard**

John Brownlie - Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

***Aca's Red Ember** (8732) 6/29/98 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble red sticktite pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain. **Standard**

***Fanny Sue** (8733) 6/29/98 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble blue two-tone star. **Variegated** green, pink and white, plain, quilted. **Standard**

Ralph Robinson - Naples, NY

***Rob's Bamboozle** (8734) 7/25/98 (R. Robinson) Semidouble bright rose-pink pansy. Dark green, ovate, glossy/red back. **Semiminiature**

***Rob's Fuzzy Navel** (8735) 7/25/98 (R. Robinson) Double peach-pink star. Dark green, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**

***Rob's Itty Bitty** (8736) 7/25/98 (R. Robinson) Semidouble bright pink bell. Dark green, pointed/red back. **Miniature**

***Rob's Oopsie Daisy** (8737) 7/25/98 (R. Robinson) Double chimera bright pink pansy/white stripe. **Crown variegated** medium green and white. **Semiminiature**

***Rob's Outer Orbit** (8738) 7/25/98 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark blue pansy/bright pink spots, white edge. **Variegated** dark green and white, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**

***Rob's Rinky Dink** (8739) 7/25/98 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark burgundy-red pansy. Dark green, pointed, glossy/red back. **Miniature**

Pat Hancock - West Chester, OH

***Buckeye Ballerina** (8740) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Double lavender-pink frilled/purple fantasy; variable purple edge. **Variegated** medium green and cream, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy. **Standard**

***Buckeye Calico** (8741) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Semidouble pink pansy/purple fantasy. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, glossy/red back. **Large**

***Buckeye Cherry Pink** (8742) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Semidouble bright mauve-pink ruffled star. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**

***Buckeye Cherry Topping** (8743) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Single-semidouble bright pink sticktite pansy/cherry frilled edge. **Variegated** black-green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**

***Buckeye Cosmic Rays** (8744) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Semidouble light purple ruffled star/dark purple and raspberry fantasy; raspberry edge. **Variegated** medium green, cream and pink, plain, hairy, wavy/red back. **Large**

***Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler** (8745) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Semidouble bright pink ruffled pansy/variable raspberry fantasy; raspberry edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**

***Buckeye Cranberry Swirl** (8746) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Semidouble light cranberry ruffled star/dark cranberry and purple fantasy; variable raspberry edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. **Large**

REGISTRATION CHANGE

(Description change **boldfaced**)

Night Vision (8724) - change foliage description to **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, pebbled, glossy, wavy/red back.



Exploring Houston, Texas

1999 AVSA Convention

April 4-11, 1999

by Connie Leifeste
Woodway, TX

EXPLORING HOUSTON

There are some great tours offered for the Houston convention, places of interest to suit a variety of tastes.

Informational brochures and location maps will be available for you at the Information Table at the Convention. If you elect to see Houston on your own, here are some suggestions:

NORTH MUSEUM DISTRICT

If you like antiques, the MENIL MUSEUM and BYZANTINE FRESCO CHAPEL on the northwest corner of St. Thomas University are good places to start. The museum began in 1987 from the private collection of Houstonians John and Dominique de Menil. The Byzantine Fresco Chapel, is adjacent to the museum at Yupon and Branard. It houses the only intact Byzantine frescoes in the western hemisphere. The story of how the frescoes came to Houston is an interesting one and surely one you do not want to miss. Hours for both the Museum and Chapel are: Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. There are no admissions. Donations, however, are accepted.

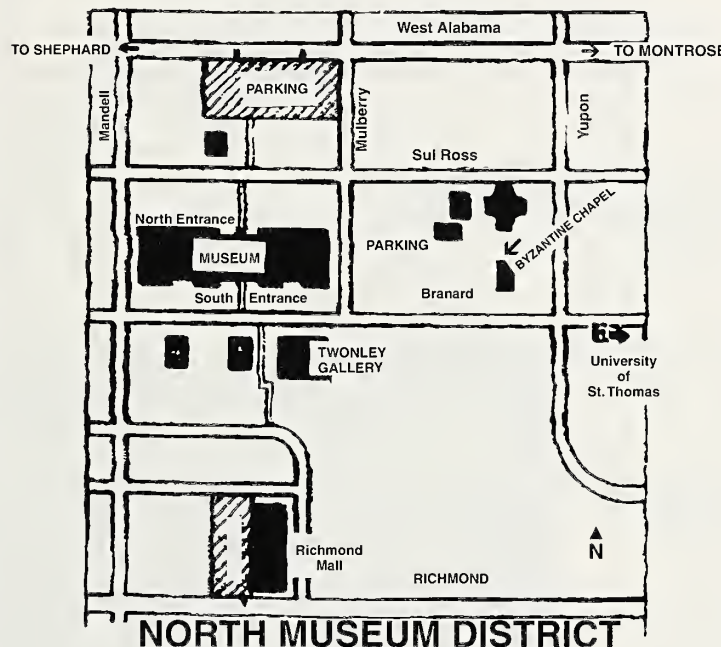
Leaving the Museum and Chapel, head north on Montrose to lower Westheimer. In a area along Westheimer from River Oaks to Montrose, ANTIQUE SHOPS of all sizes and sorts line the street; certainly a wonderful place to browse or grab some lunch. Then, head west on Westheimer again; turn right on River Oaks Boulevard and view the FINE, OLD HOMES of Houston. You may return to the hotel by following River Oaks to Westheimer, there turn right and proceed about eleven miles to the area of the hotel.

SOUTH MUSEUM DISTRICT

You have many choices in this area from south of US 59 to Loop 610 South. The HOUSTON MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, located at 1001 Bissonnet, houses a collection representing many periods and frequently has special exhibits. Free parking is located across the street from the museum. Hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There is an admission on these days. On Thursdays, however, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, admission is free.

HERMANN PARK holds many attractions. The Houston Garden Center is a pleasant location for a stroll through the Rose or Japanese Gardens. There is an admission for the Japanese Gardens. The Zoo and Golf Course are located toward the back of the park's drive on the extreme south side. Both have admissions. The HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE contains, among many other attractions, an extensive exhibit, the state's development of the energy industry. Hours for the Museum are: Monday through Saturday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. There is an admission.

Exiting Hermann Park, to the west at 6100 South Main, is WILL MARSH RICE UNIVERSITY, often called the "Ivy League Campus of the Southwest." The university admits more National Merit finalists than any other institution of higher learning in the country. The beautifully landscaped campus is comprised of fifty buildings built in the Neo-Byzantine style with red tile Spanish roofs. A special attraction is the Fondren Library which houses the Johnson Space Center archives. In the charter of 1891, the library became one of Houston's finest assets, stating that the "library remains open and free to the public." Distinguished gradu-



NORTH MUSEUM DISTRICT

ate alumni include Texan Larry McMurtry, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Lonesome Dove*. Visitor parking is located off University Drive near the baseball field or further west near the football stadium.

The TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER, diagonally opposite to Rice University across South Main and behind Hermann Park, was established in 1945 and occupies over 265 acres. It houses institutions that are involved in all phases of medicine, from patient care and research to schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy and biotechnology. For a free tour, stop at the Visitor's Center at 1155 Holcombe.

Returning to South Main, turn left and follow it to South Kirby. Turn right and enter at Gate 2. Even before your arrival at the location, you will see the ASTRODOME looming up before you. The complex is comprised of a convention center, exhibition hall and sports coliseum. An eighteen story building would fit inside the sports coliseum. It is home to the Houston Astros Baseball team and also hosts the largest rodeo and livestock show in the nation, each year. You may stop and tour the complex. A film, *Astrodome, the Original*, depicts the historical viewpoint of the stadium, its conception and construction. Tours are offered daily at 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM unless preempted by an event. Telephone before you visit. There are parking and tour fees.

The Astrodome sits adjacent to Loop 610 South. You may return to the hotel by heading right on the Loop, then exiting on Westheimer, where you turn left. The hotel is approximately seven miles west.

BEYOND THE CITY CENTER

Located east of the city near Deer Park, the SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORICAL PARK is an excellent attraction to develop an extensive overview of Texas history. The 570 foot tall San Jacinto Monument marks the approximate site where a small, ill equipped group of volunteers, under the leadership of General Sam Houston, defeated Mexican General Santa Ana and the large army of over 1,500 soldiers. The information is presented in detail along with a special film, *Texas Forever*, at the Texas Museum of History. The park is opened everyday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. There is a fee to see the film.

Also stop and see the Battleship Texas, one of the few monuments of its kind in the world. Commissioned by the

U. S. Navy shortly before World War I, the battleship served in both world wars. It is distinguished by having served as the flagship for General Dwight D. Eisenhower during the D-Day invasion of Europe in 1944.

The LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER at Clear Lake provides an adventure into the past, present and future of NASA's manned space flight program. Stop at the Clear Lake Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1201 NASA Road #1, for information about tours of the facility. Hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily. There is an admission for the tour.

SHOPPING AND BROWSING

A seven mile stretch along Westheimer from the hotel east toward Loop 610 is one of Houston's finest districts for shopping, restaurants and entertainment.

Try some authentic Tex-Mex cuisine or sample some Gulf seafood. Houston is also known for its own variation of good Cajun cuisine, like red beans, sausage and rice. Popular

places with many Houstonians are the Pappas chain of restaurants. These specialize in serving American hamburgers, Mexican food, Cajun, seafood or Texas-style pit barbecue.

The free newspaper *Houston Press* also has extensive listings of restaurants.

Visit the GALLERIA. This modern, multilevel shopping complex houses Neiman Marcus and many other specialty and department stores. You may enter on the west end near Macy's and browse to the

far east end, where Neiman's is located. You will find the food court on the bottom level. Several better restaurants are located on the second level near the mall entrance to the Galleria's hotel.

The Adam's Mark runs a shuttle service to the Galleria beginning at 10:00 AM. Check with the front desk upon your arrival for the specific schedule to the Galleria during the convention.

TOWN AND COUNTRY MALL is located at the intersection of the Beltway and Interstate 10 north of the hotel.

If you would like to visit a PLANT NURSERY, then head toward Bellaire, where Teas Nursery is located at 4400 Bellaire Boulevard at Newcastle. You may also choose to lunch in Chinatown at one of any number of Oriental restaurants in the area.



SOUTH MUSEUM DISTRICT

Great Gift Ideas From AVSA

- *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges*
- *Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets by Dr. Charles Cole*
- *50 Years with the African Violet Society of America, Inc.*
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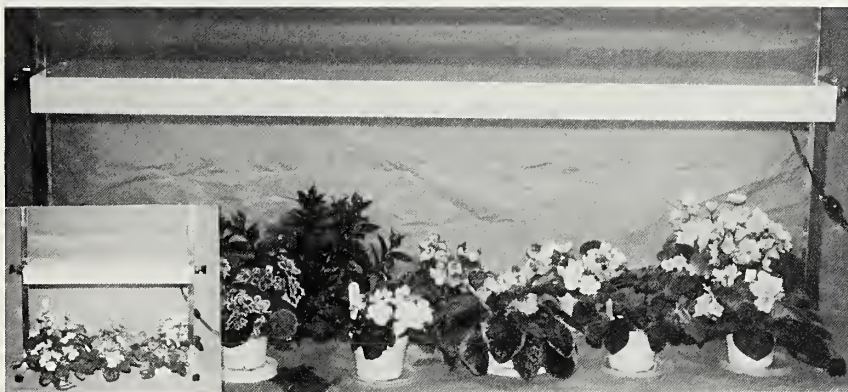


Table Model Grow Lite Stands (2 sizes)

You can grow violets on a table top. Both sizes of these grow lights will set comfortably and beautifully on any flat surface. The smaller unit is 26 1/2" long (shown in insert photo); the larger unit is 50 1/2" long.

Each comes with 2 fluorescent plant tubes (grow lites) to provide optimum light for sturdy growth and bloom.

The fixtures hold the lamps 6" apart (center to center) and measure either 24" or 48" by 10" by 2 1/8" and have a high gloss white finish.

Quickly raise or lower the fixture above the growing surface with the easy to use slide and

tighten feature which holds the fixture to the legs. The legs are 24" tall and are made of 1" square shiny aluminum. The fixture may be positioned up to 22" above the table top. Most violet growers find 12 - 15" is ideal. Each stand comes with a 5 foot cord with a built in on/off switch, (or you may operate either stand with an appliance timer (not included) if desired.) Easy assembly! Just install the lamps in the fixture and slide it onto the legs. Does a wonderful job on violets and many other houseplants, or for seed starting.

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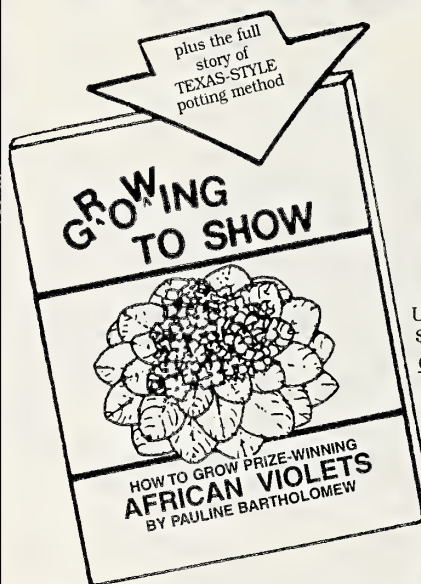
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6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
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4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size Color 10 20 50 100 Size 10

4" Wh 2.35 4.50 9.25 17.00 7" 4.30

5" Wh 2.70 4.75 10.25 19.00 8" 5.10

9" 6.40

10" 7.30

11" 10.25

12" 11.75

10" Wh/Gr 6.00 11.50 26.00 50.00

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10" Wh/Gr 6.00 11.50 26.00 50.00

WATER-RESERVOIRS FOR WICK WATERING

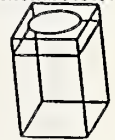
Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5-3.5"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00
	2 gal.	\$3.50
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00
	2 gal.	\$3.50
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$3.00	12 oz./\$4.50
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./\$3.75	2 oz./\$4.75
		4 oz./\$7.75

PETERS FERTILIZER

AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00
VARIATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00
DYNA GRO FERTILIZER		
Dyna Gro -7-9-5	11 oz.	\$6.25
	16 oz.	\$8.50
Dyna Gro 3-12-6 Blossom Booster	11 oz.	\$6.25
	16 oz.	\$9.75

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	24 oz.	\$7.75
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	\$5.00
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
CONCERN INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	12 oz.	\$4.75
Concentrate	24 oz.	\$10.50
1600-X-CLUDE	16 oz.	\$8.50

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

UYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Uyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
4"	Wh/Gr	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00

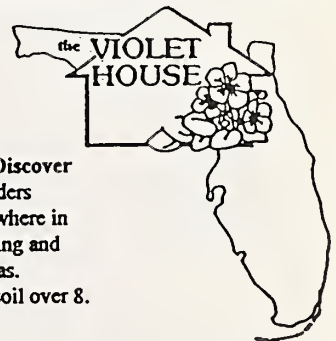


MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.50	\$25.00	\$38.00	\$68.00

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV
P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466



- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.50 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.75 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

Start making your list and checking it twice

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*As holiday time again draws near,
Memories revive both warmth and cheer.
Displaying faith in place of doubt,
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May peace, hope, joy and friendship,
fill your life in great dimension.*

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HANDCRAFTED 2-PIECE SELF-WATERING CERAMIC POT

STYLE CSW-1

Height 4-1/2" overall
Width 7" overall
Pot Size For 3" or 4" pots
Price \$14.95 ppd

STYLE CSW-2

Height 3-1/4" overall
Width 5-1/2" overall
Pot Size For 2-1/4" or 3" pots
Price \$10.95 ppd

STYLE CSW-MINI

(for miniatures & semiminiatures)
Height 3-1/4" overall
Width 4-3/4" overall
Pot Size Minis

Price \$8.95 ppd

STYLE CSW-MM (Micromini)

NEW - especially for Microminis
Height 2-1/4"
Width 3-1/2" overall
Price \$6.95 ppd



2-piece ceramic self-watering footed pots. Choose from 20 sparkling colors in deep lavender, lilac, Robin's egg blue, mint green, deep blue, pink, sesame, dark green, gray, and white. Attractive violet cluster glazed decal decoration on both sides. (Please state 2nd color choice.) These pots can be watered from side holes to the reservoir or removed to refill reservoir. Helps to avoid overwatering and very convenient for people who must be away for periods of time.

CERAMIC CONCH SHELL

Self-watering 2-piece ceramic conch shell. A novel way to display and grow your most beautiful violets. Shell measures 8" in diameter, 4" high, suitable for 2 1/2" to 3" pot. Available in four sparkling colors with Mother-Of-Pearl overlay ... soft shell peach, light blue, lilac and white. \$14.95 ppd



CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POT - 4" white or lilac ceramic pot with separate saucer and attractive violet decal. Perfect decorative pot for your African violets \$5.95 with any order.

WINDOW PLANTERS

3 white plastic trays with frame constructed of aluminum, for use on double hung windows. 15" wide, length is adjustable from 13" to 24".

WP153 - tray size 15" x 2" x 3" \$17.95 ppd
WP156 - tray size 15" x 2" x 6" \$22.95 ppd

"SUCKER PLUCKER" - tempered steel blades - straight and curved. Sharp edges for easy plucking, natural finish, hardwood handle \$3.49 each ppd.

SUCKER PLUCKER



"LEAF DUSTER" - fan shaped brush of pure natural bristle, great for hairy leaf varieties \$4.95 each ppd.
SPECIAL: One of each \$7.95 ppd.

LEAF DUSTER



G22A...COMPACT LITE STAND - 2 Shelf stand is fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing, easily assembled. This stand is a sturdy, attractive propagating unit. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with new slide adjustment. Complete with trays, fixtures and 2-20 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. Overall size 40" high, 27" long, 12" deep. Shipped prepaid via UPS \$175.00 ppd



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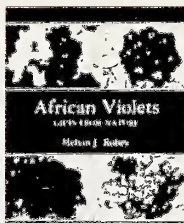


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"AFRICAN VIOLETS GIFTS FROM NATURE"

by Melvin J. Robey

Beautiful new book contains 42 color photos, 150 black and white, many illustrations and charts. Learn how to identify insect problems and gain knowledge on how to select the proper pesticide for eradication. Detailed chapters on proper potting, watering, lighting, propagation, hybridizing, and seed. A real textbook 8 1/2" x 11" all you ever need to know about African violets at your fingertips. Truly a masterpiece ... \$45.00 ppd.



Insect and Mite
Pests of
African Violets



"INSECT & MITE PESTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS"

A factual book by Dr. Charles Cole relating to basic principles of pest control. Helps you to be proficient in detecting, identifying and controlling pests on African violets. 16 colorful pictures depicting insect damage on plants, pest charts and table of measures included \$12.00 with any order, separately add \$1.95 postage.

"GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA"

by Joan Halford

A fascinating basic method promoting every facet of home or greenhouse growing. Containing 33 color photos, over 100 vivid illustrations displaying how to propagate cuttings, hybridize and grow seed. Shown are leaf and blossom types, pests and eradication methods, Texas Potting and capillary matting, feeding, watering and humidity requirements. An excellent glossary and index provide continuity and fundamentals for success \$16.95 postpaid

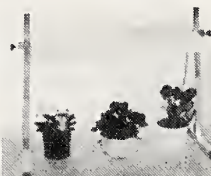


TABLETOP ADJUSTABLE FIXTURES

This tabletop adjustable fixture is available in two sizes. Fixture height is easily adjusted from 1" to 24" on the sturdy 1" square welded aluminum legs. White aluminum fixtures complete with wide spectrum tubes, 2-wire cord and on/off line switch.

MODEL TT220WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-20 watt Gro-Lux Wide spectrum tubes, 24" length \$65.95 ppd.

MODEL TT240WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-40 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes, 38" length. \$75.95 ppd.



4-TRAY LITE STAND...Fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing. They are easy to assemble with a screwdriver. These stands are sturdy, yet attractive. The unit comes complete with four plastic tan trays and four double light fixtures with Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with the new slide adjustment. Overall size 70" high x 26" length x 12" depth. Shipped by UPS prepaid.

4-Tray Lite Stand...Aluminum finish..... \$319.00 ppd.
4-Tray Lite Stand...Brown finish..... \$339.00 ppd.



DANDY POTS - Reservoir Wick Planters available in blue, pink, violet, and white. Made of fade resistant plastics, simple to use wick watering system, easy to fill reservoir which comes apart for cleaning. **DANDY POT** ... 4" pot, 16 oz. transparent reservoir \$5.99 each with any order, specify color desired.

PICK OF THE LITTER ... NEW ITEM ... by popular request - a litter of 5 stuffed cats in attractive violet motif fabric with satin violet-colored ribbon collar and violet felt eyes. Ranging from 9" to 4 1/2" tall ... SPECIAL litter of 5 cats \$12.95 ppd

TINARI AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING MEDIUM - Properly blended growing medium - the same used in our greenhouse operation, pH of about 6.4, packaged ready to ship in:

12 Quart Poly Bag Zone 0-1-2 \$12.95 ppd.
12 Quart Poly Bag Zone 3-4-5 \$13.95 ppd.
12 Quart Poly Bag Zone 6-7-8-9 \$14.95 ppd.

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